



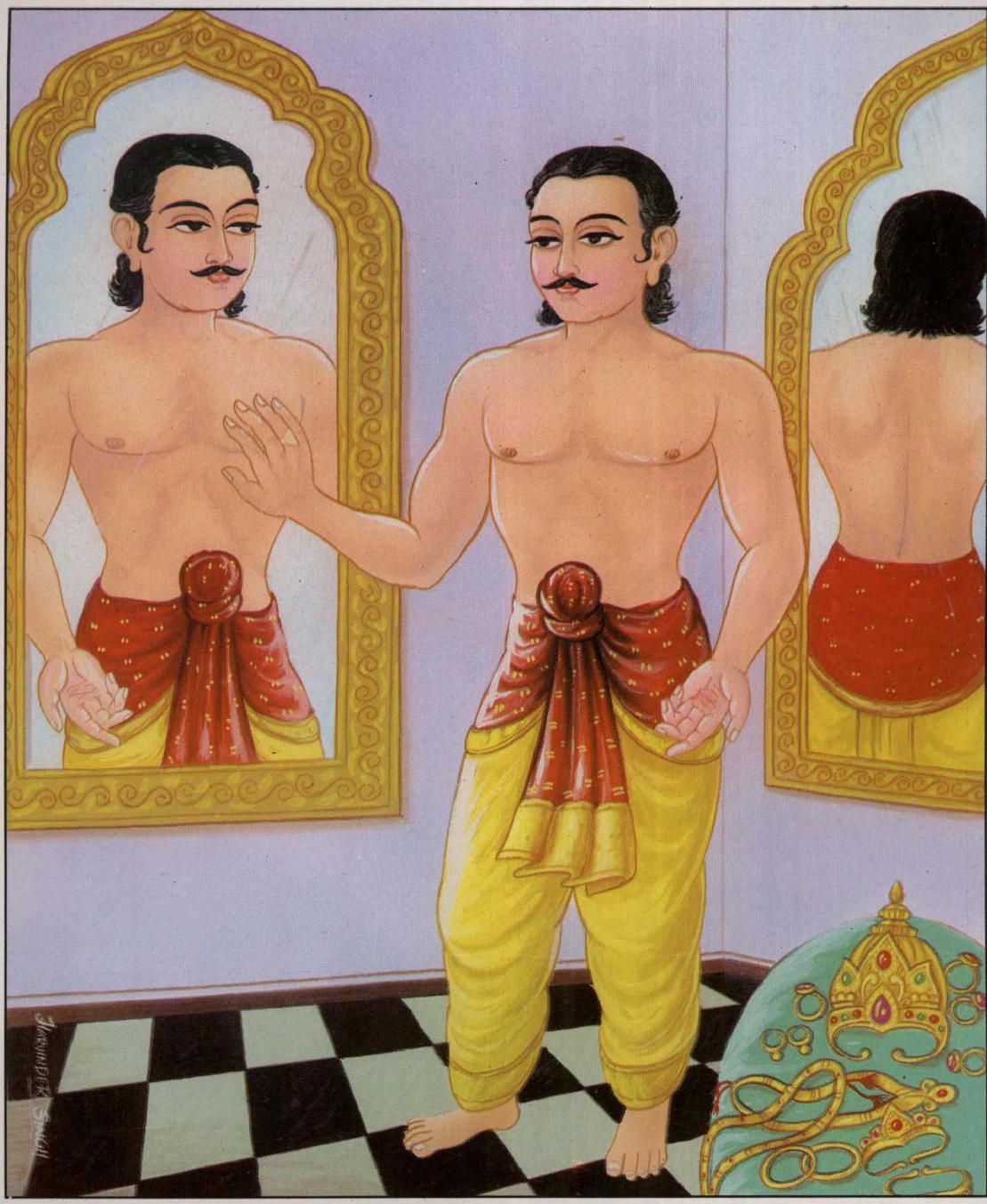
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BHARAT CHAKRAVARTI



BHARAT CHAKRAVARTI

Bharat, the eldest son of the first Tirthankar, Bhagavan Rishabh Dev, was the first chakravarti emperor of this Avasarpini or the current regressive cycle of time. In spite of being the sovereign of a vast empire, chakravarti Bharat was detached and spiritually conscious. To annex the kingdoms of his ninety eight brothers and to fight with Bahubali was his Helplessness. He lead a life of a saintly king who moved from pleasures to abstention, violence to ahimsa, and euphoria of sovereignty to self discipline.

The Vedic tradition depicts Bharat as an accomplished yogi and devotee of God, and a great saint. But the Jain tradition believes him to be a saintly king who attained omniscience in his glass palace after enjoying the lofty mundane status of chakravarti. In Indian culture, besides chakravarti Bharat, the son of Rishabh, there are two other famous persons with the same name—Bharat, the son of Dushyant and Shakuntala, and Bharat the son of king Dasharath. According to the Jain narrative literature and Bhagavat Purana this subcontinent was named Bharat-kshetra (Bharat-varsh) after Rishabh's son Bharat.

This inspiring adaptation of the story of Bharat chakravarti has been penned by Acharya Shrimad Vijaya Jinottam Surishvar ji M. Sa, the successor of Pratishta Shiromani revered Acharya Shrimad Vijaya Sushil Surishvar ji M. Sa. We express our gratitude for him.

Author :

Acharya Shrimad Vijaya Jinottam Surishvar ji M.

Editor :

Shrichand Surana 'Saras'

Managing Editors :

Dr. Mansukhbhai Jain, Sanjay Surana

English Translation :

Surendra Bothara

PUBLISHERS

MAHAVIR SEVA TRIST

A-7, SAGAR NIWAS, 1ST FLOOR, OFF MANCHHUBHAI ROAD, MALAD (E), MUMBAI-400 097. PH. 8811397, (R) 8892121

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C/o DR. P.B. GADA, 4410, 50TH STREET, LUBBOCK, TEXAS-79414 (U.S.A.). PH. 806-793-8555

DIWAKAR PRAKASHAN

A-7, AWAGARH HOUSE, OPP. ANJANA CINEMA, M.G. ROAD, AGRA-282 002. PH. : 351165, 51789

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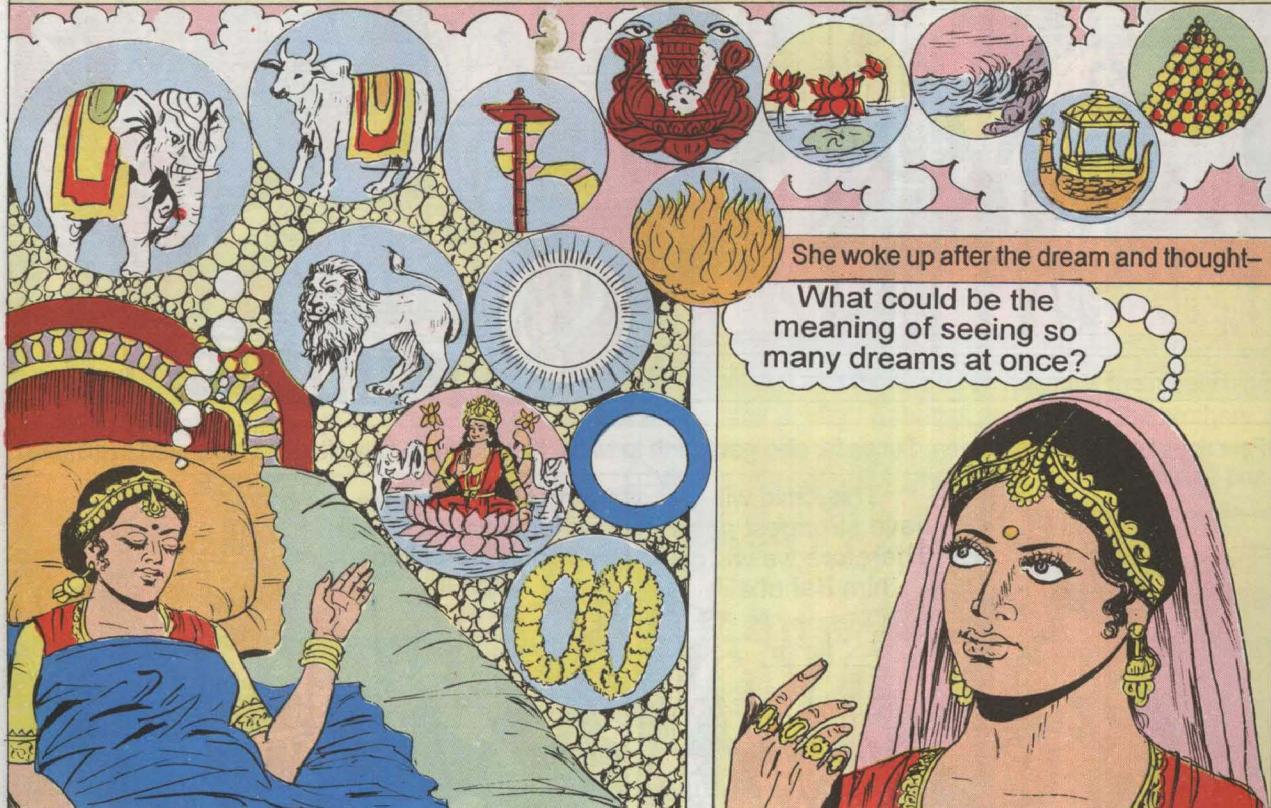
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INDIRA MANSUKHLAL DOSHI MEMORIAL TRUST

931-W, GOLDENROD LANE, LAKE FOREST, IL-60045 (U.S.A.). PH. : 847-735-0120

BHARAT CHAKRAVARTI

The senior was Sunanda and the junior was Sumangala. One night queen Sumangala saw some dreams.

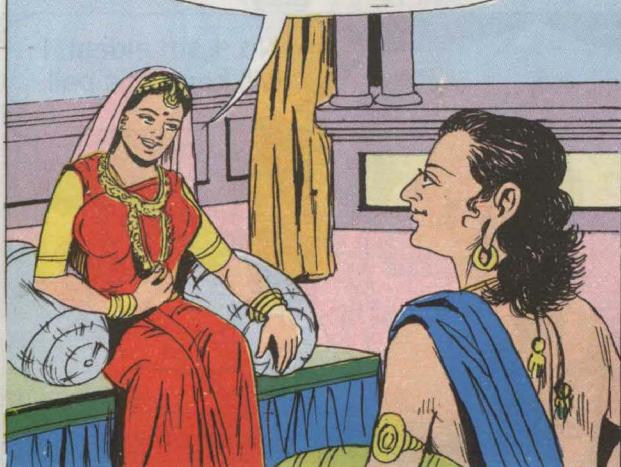


She woke up after the dream and thought—

What could be the meaning of seeing so many dreams at once?

In the morning she asked king Rishabh Dev—

My lord, in just one night I have seen fourteen dreams. What could these dreams indicate?



Rishabh Dev said—

Devi, the mother of either a Tirthankar or a chakravarti sees such dreams. I am sure your son will be the first chakravarti emperor of this era.

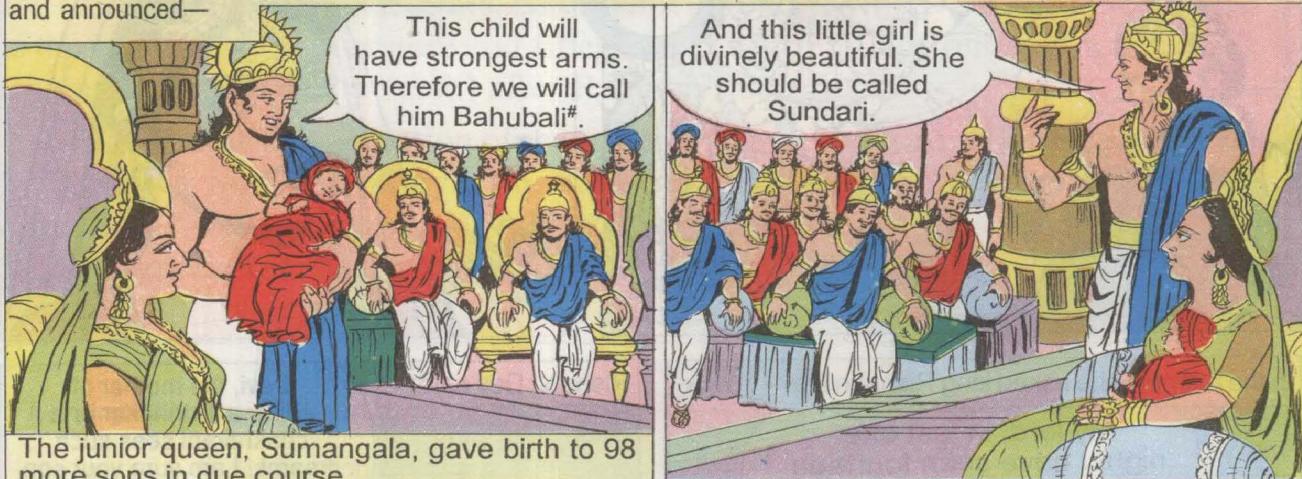


In due course Sumangala gave birth to a son and a daughter.

While celebrating the birth of the twins king Rishabh Dev announced—



Few days later the other queen, Sunanda, also gave birth to twins. King Rishabh Dev lifted the male child in his hand and announced—



The junior queen, Sumangala, gave birth to 98 more sons in due course.

Once, during their juvenile age, all the princes were playing in the garden. Suddenly Bharat took Bahubali's ball. Bahubali complained—

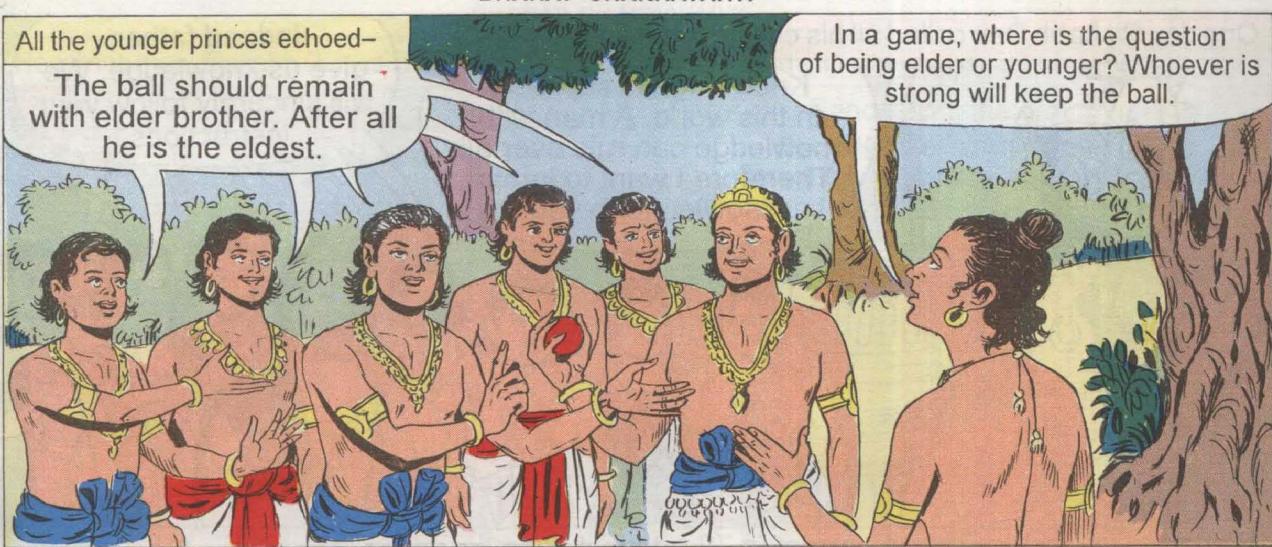


Bahu = arms, bali = strong.

All the younger princes echoed—

The ball should remain with elder brother. After all he is the eldest.

In a game, where is the question of being elder or younger? Whoever is strong will keep the ball.



Bharat also got excited.

You are showing off your strength. Come, lets have a duel.

All right.



On one side Bahubali was alone and on the other the ninety nine brothers. One after another Bahubali defeated all the brothers.

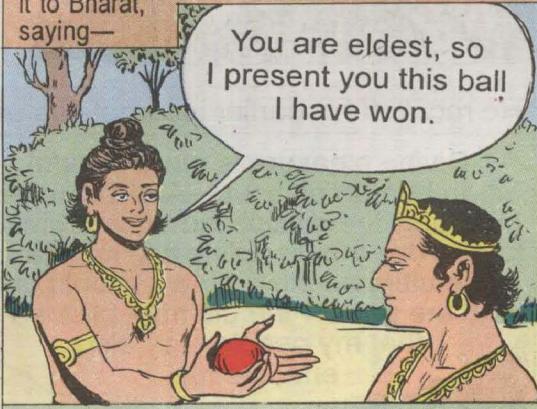


In the end Bharat and Bahubali wrestled. In just one move Bahubali tossed Bharat up. When Bharat fell, Bahubali caught him like a ball.



This way he defeated Bharat as well.

After this Bahubali picked up the ball and offered it to Bharat, saying—

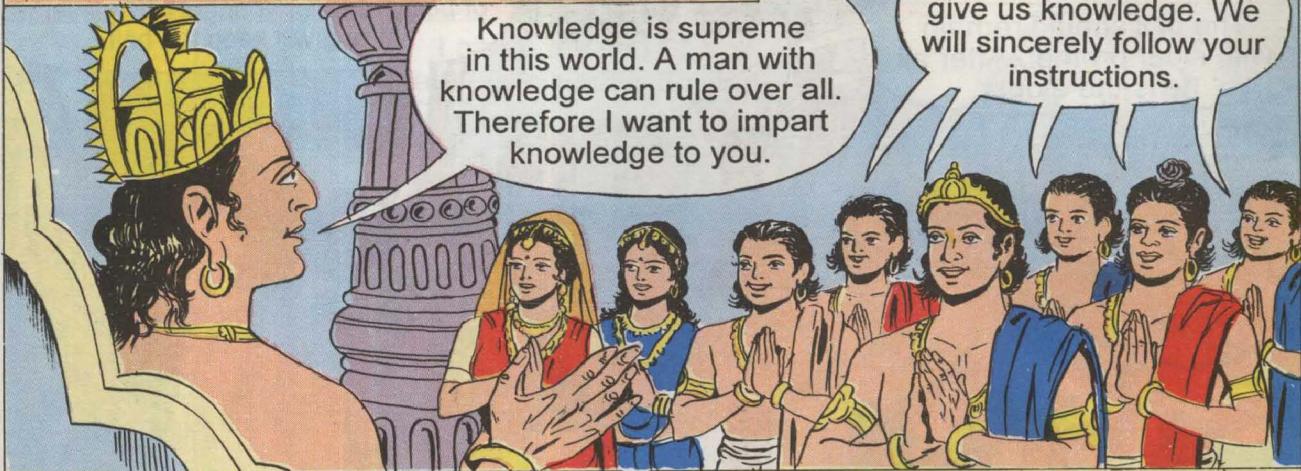


Although Bharat got ashamed, he was pleased at the valour of his younger brother.

One day Rishabh Dev called all his children and said—

Knowledge is supreme in this world. A man with knowledge can rule over all. Therefore I want to impart knowledge to you.

Indeed father, give us knowledge. We will sincerely follow your instructions.

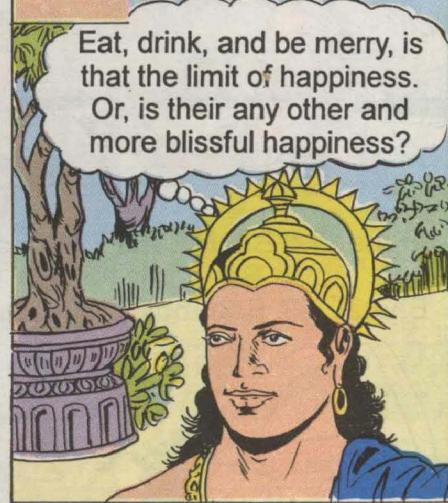


Rishabh Dev made Bharat perfect in 72 arts including language, chemistry, music, crafts, and dance. Bahubali was taught biology, and augury. Other sons were also given knowledge of various subjects. To Brahma he taught scripts and Sundari was given the knowledge of numbers (mathematics).

Once during spring festival celebrations in Ayodhya king Rishabh Dev went to the garden with his family. The masses were participating in various dances, music and other recreational activities. When Rishabh Dev saw the public effused with joy, he thought—

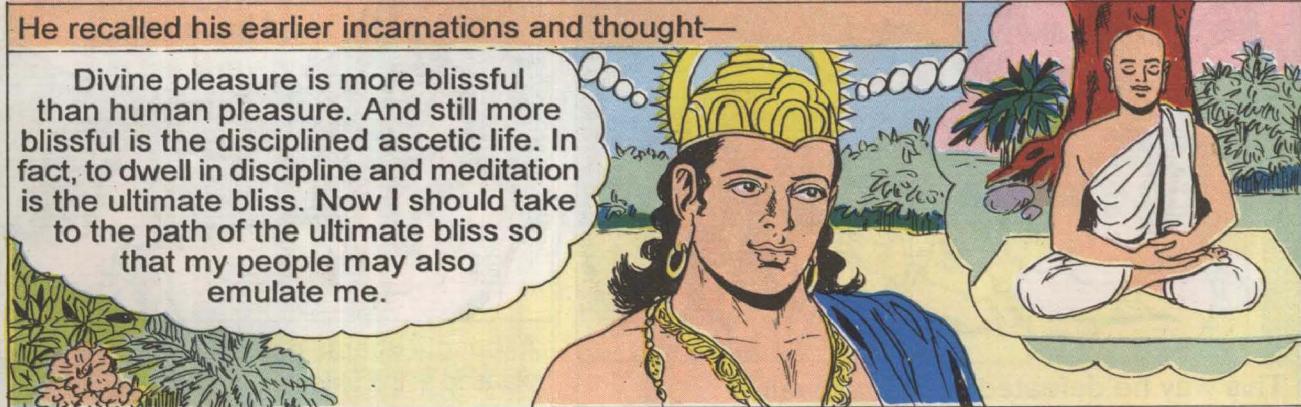


All of a sudden the stream of his thoughts took a turn—

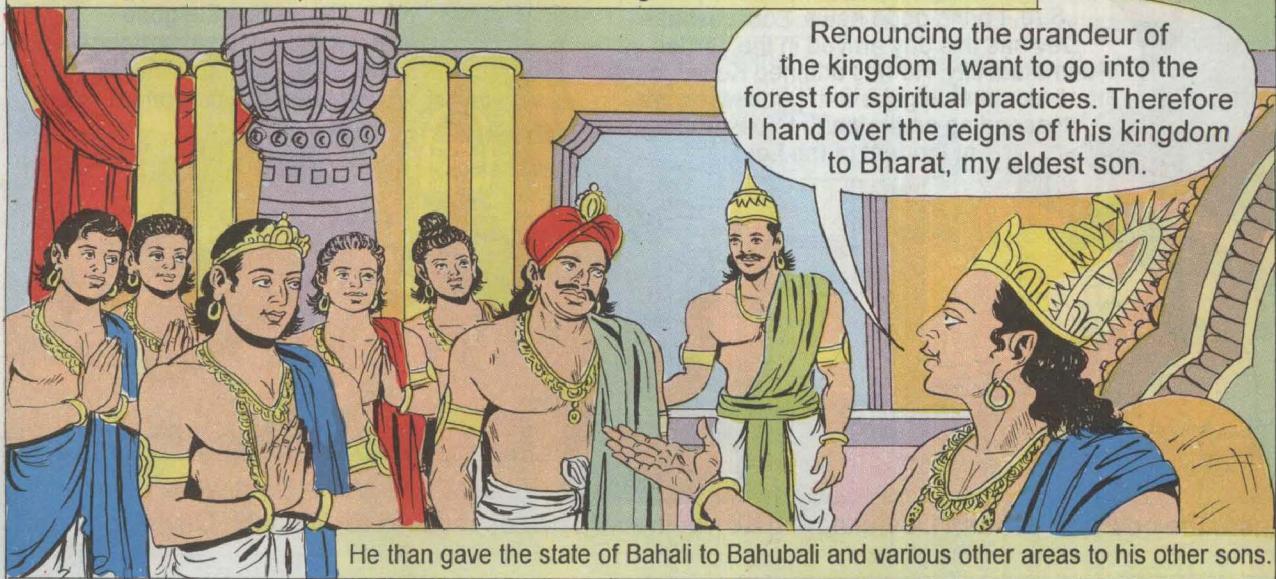


He recalled his earlier incarnations and thought—

Divine pleasure is more blissful than human pleasure. And still more blissful is the disciplined ascetic life. In fact, to dwell in discipline and meditation is the ultimate bliss. Now I should take to the path of the ultimate bliss so that my people may also emulate me.

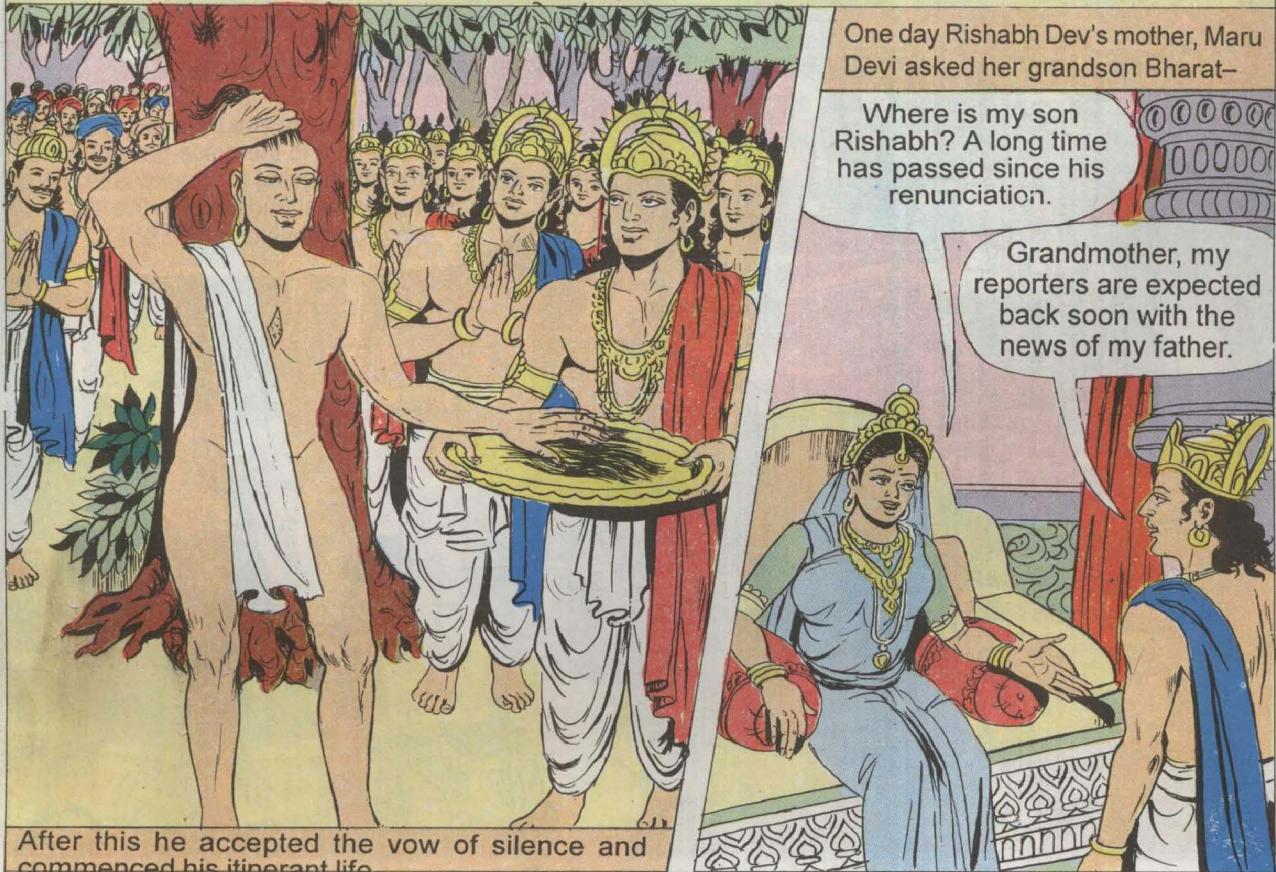


Resolving thus, Rishabh Dev called his sons, including Bharat, and ministers and said—



He then gave the state of Bahali to Bahubali and various other areas to his other sons.

On Chaitra Krishna eighth Rishabh Dev started on the ascetic path. Hundreds of kings and princes and thousands of men and women were following Rishabh Dev sitting in the divine palanquin. Reaching the garden and standing under an Ashoka tree, Rishabh Dev pulled out four fistful of his hair, formally accepting Shraman-diksha#.



After this he accepted the vow of silence and commenced his itinerant life.

While they were still talking Yamak, a reporter entered the palace—

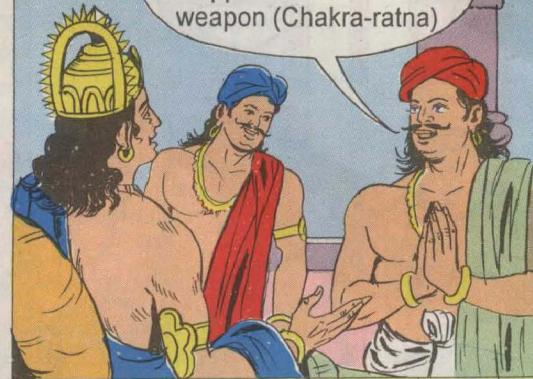
Sire, I bring good news. Lord Rishabh Dev has this day arrived in the garden in Purimataal city. He has attained Kewal-jnana.[#]
Innumerable gods and goddesses are descending on the earth to pay homage at the feet of the Lord.



Bharat and Maru Devi were pleased to hear the news of Rishabh Dev attaining Kewal-jnana. They at once left for Rishabh Dev's darshan.[#]

Just then another reporter came—

Sire, I bring the good news that in your armoury has appeared the divine disc weapon (Chakra-ratna)

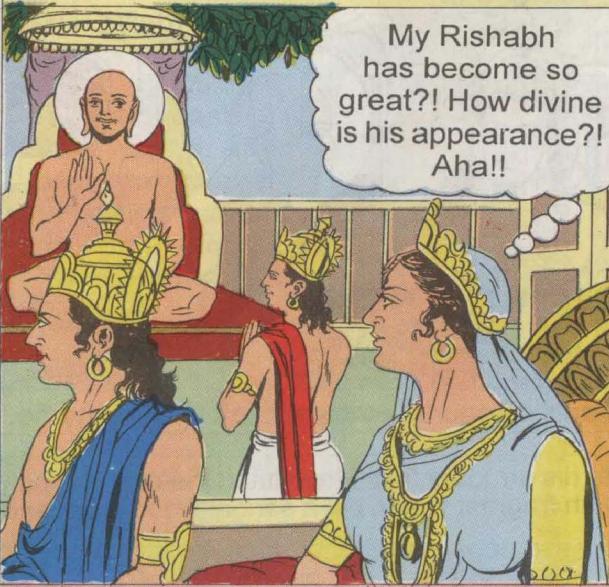


Mother Maru Devi rode a well decorated elephant. In front sat Bharat himself. Followed by hundreds of elephants, chariots and thousands of soldiers they left for the garden in a large procession. When he saw the divine Samavasaran[#] of the Lord, Bharat said—



Omniscience. # To behold and pay homage. # Religious assembly of a Tirthankar. 6

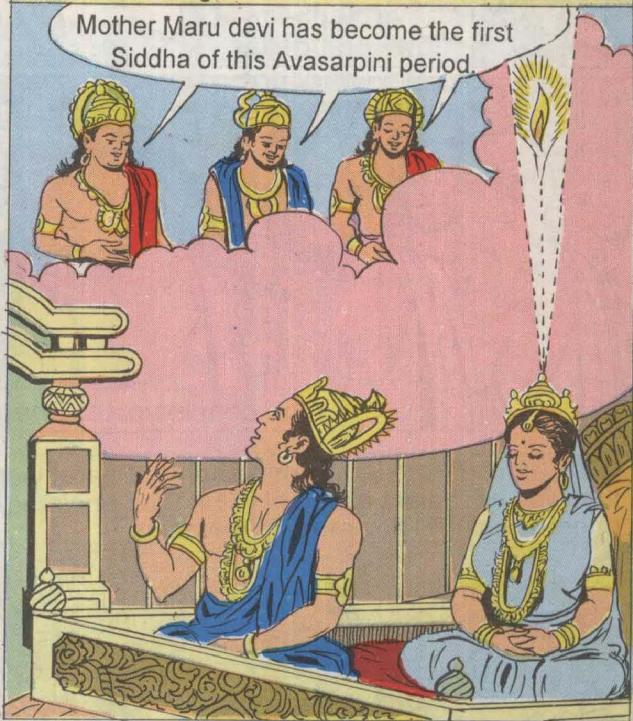
When mother Marudeva saw Prabhu's[#] grandeur enhanced by divine attributes she shed tears of joy—



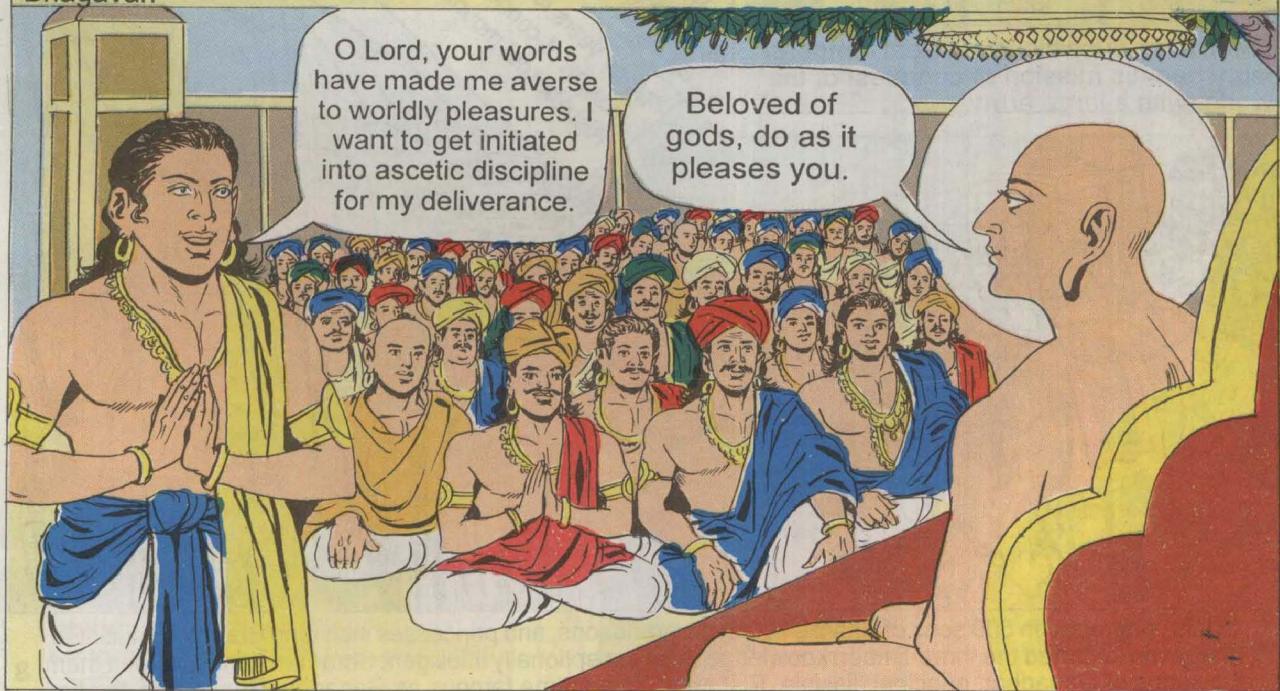
My Rishabh
has become so
great?! How divine
is his appearance?!
Aha!!

She was effused with unprecedented joy.
Sitting there, she went into deep
meditation visualizing the divine vision of
the Lord.

This divine vision lead to shedding of all karmas, then to omniscience and finally to liberation. She became a Siddha. Soon gods made a divine announcement—



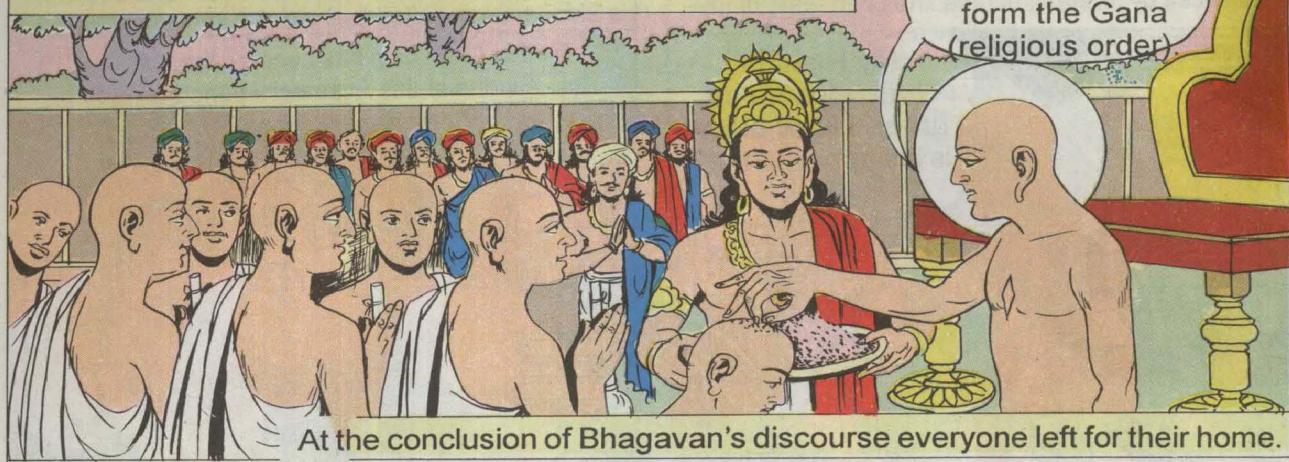
Astonished Bharat looked back and paid homage to Maru devi. He got down from the elephant and, discarding all his regalia, entered the Samavasaran to take his seat. Lord Rishabh Dev preached for three hours. On conclusion, Bharat's eldest son Rishabh Sen submitted before Bhagavan—



O Lord, your words
have made me averse
to worldly pleasures. I
want to get initiated
into ascetic discipline
for my deliverance.

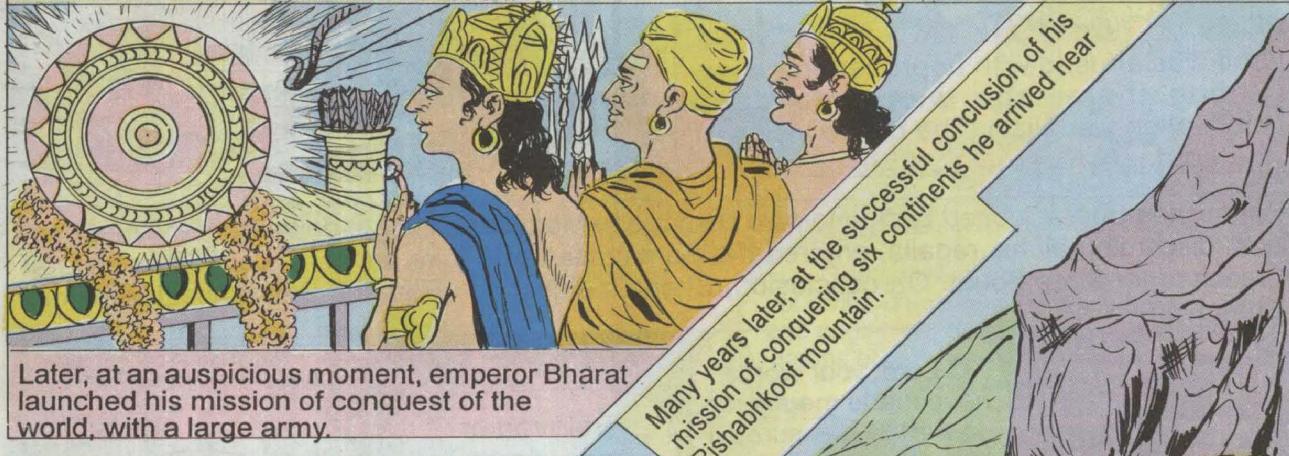
Beloved of
gods, do as it
pleases you.

With Rishabh Sen, hundreds of other princes and Brahmi and other princesses also got initiated. Of these Shramans[#] 84, who were exceptionally intelligent, were made Ganadhars.

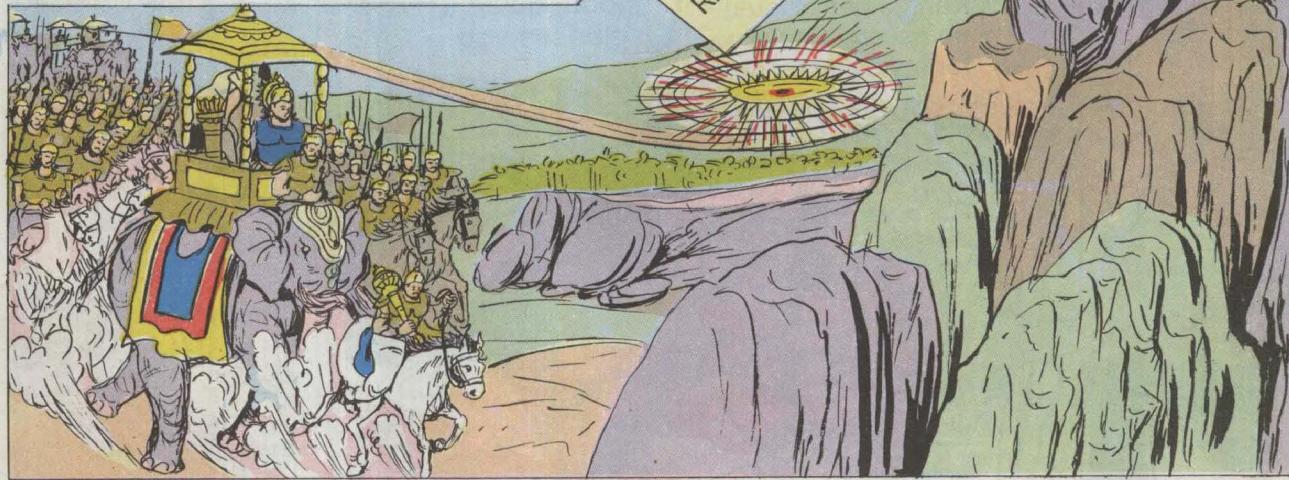


At the conclusion of Bhagavan's discourse everyone left for their home.

On returning from the Samavasaran, Bharat went to his armoury first. He saluted the disc-weapon that was as radiant as the sun. He then anointed it with fragrant water, put a sandal-wood-mark and offered colourful flowers with devotion.

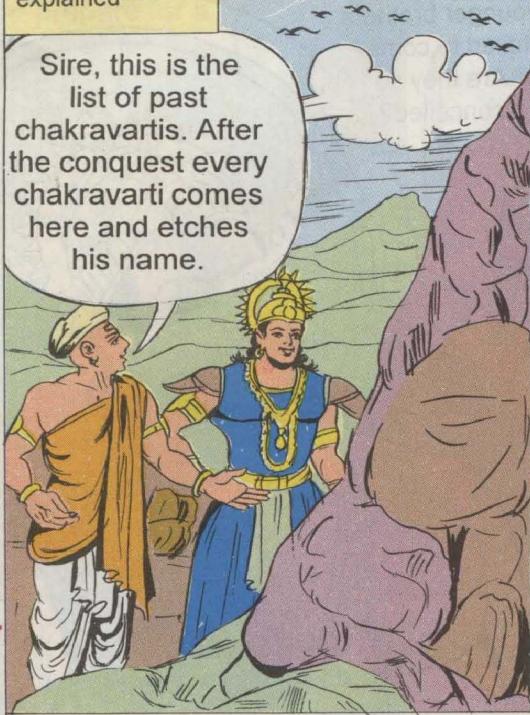


Later, at an auspicious moment, emperor Bharat launched his mission of conquest of the world, with a large army.



In this congregation 500 sons of Bharat, 700 of his grandsons, and princesses including Brahmi got initiated. Bhagavan imparted the three-limbed knowledge to 84 exceptionally intelligent Shramans and awarded them the status of Ganadhar, principal disciple. Rishabh Sen became famous as Ganadhar Pundareek, the first Ganadhar of Bhagavan Rishabh Dev. # Jain ascetics. 8

Bharat stopped near a large crystal-like boulder and looked at it with surprise. The state priest explained—

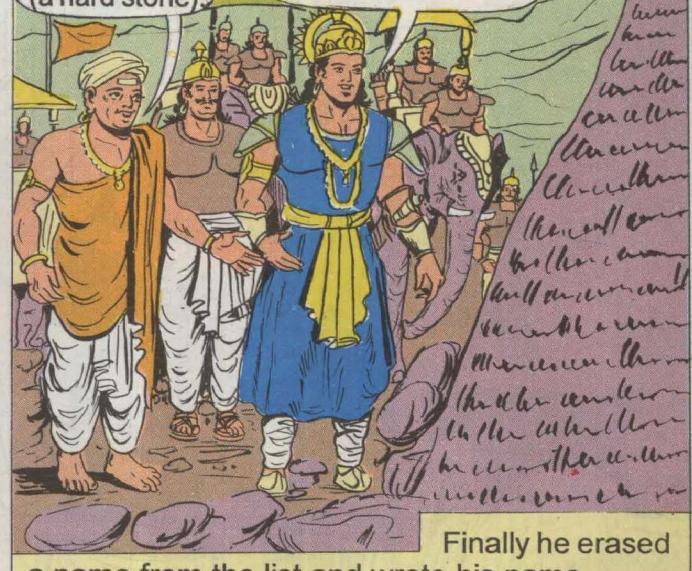


Sire, this is the list of past chakravartis. After the conquest every chakravarti comes here and etches his name.

Bharat continued to watch with astonishment

Sire, you also etch your name with Kakini gem (a hard stone)

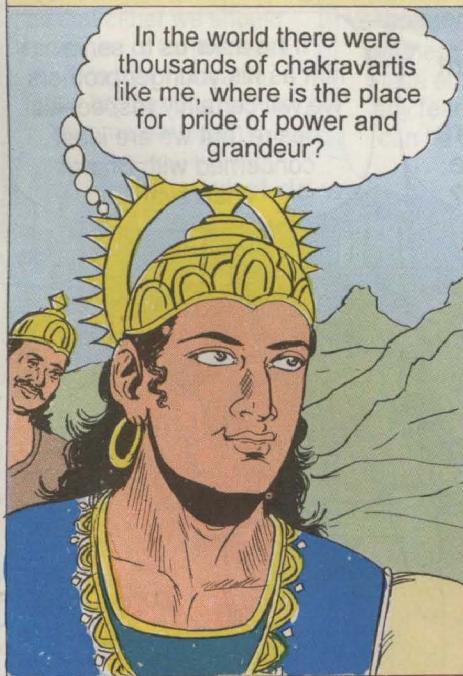
Such a long list of past chakravartis! I fail to find enough space to write my name.



Finally he erased a name from the list and wrote his name.

He was then absorbed in his thoughts—

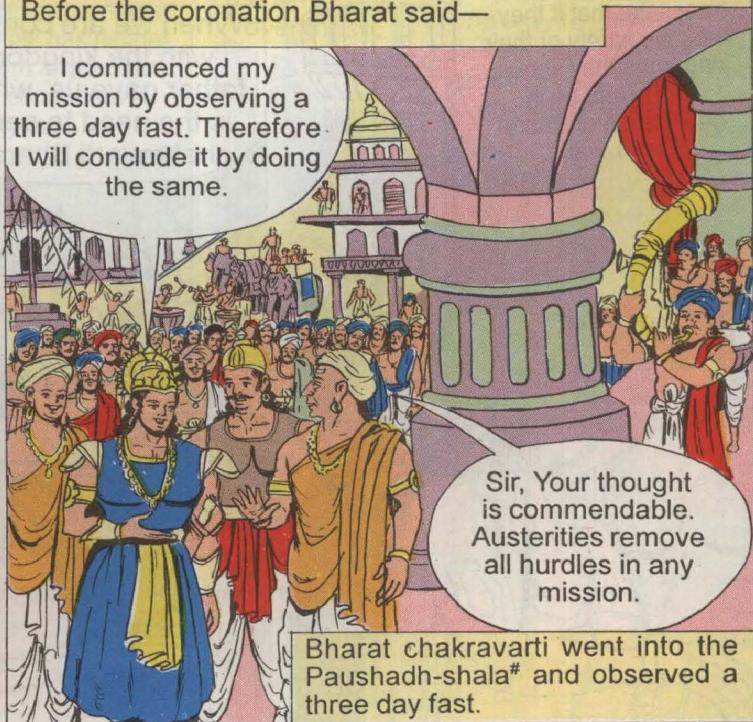
In the world there were thousands of chakravartis like me, where is the place for pride of power and grandeur?



At that the pride of the conquest of six continents, Bharat nurtured, was shattered.

After the victory, Bharat entered Ayodhya. The city was divinely decorated and celebrations started. Before the coronation Bharat said—

I commenced my mission by observing a three day fast. Therefore I will conclude it by doing the same.



Sir, Your thought is commendable. Austerities remove all hurdles in any mission.

Bharat chakravarti went into the Paushadh-shala[#] and observed a three day fast.

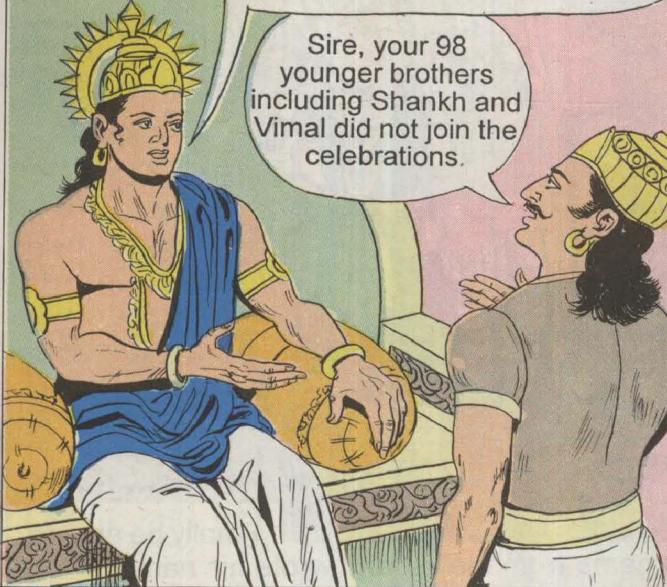
Some days later Bharat asked his minister—

Who among my relatives did not attend the victory celebrations ?

Sire, your 98 younger brothers including Shankh and Vimal did not join the celebrations.

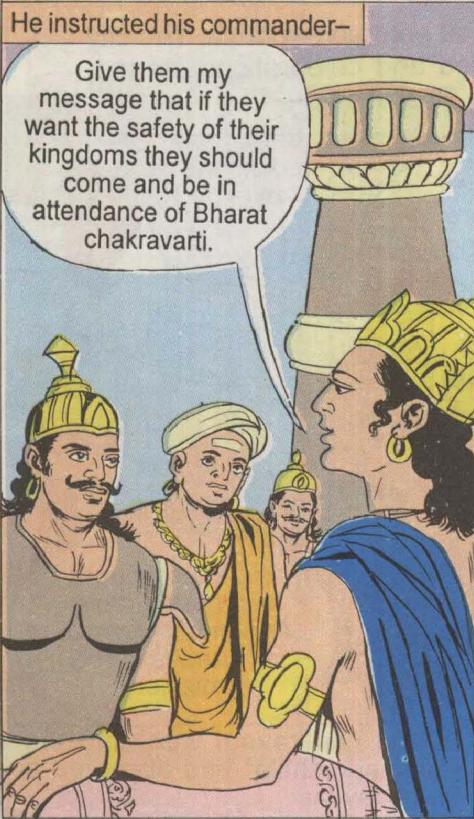
Bharat was shocked at this—

My own younger brothers failed to come?
Are they so conceited?



He instructed his commander—

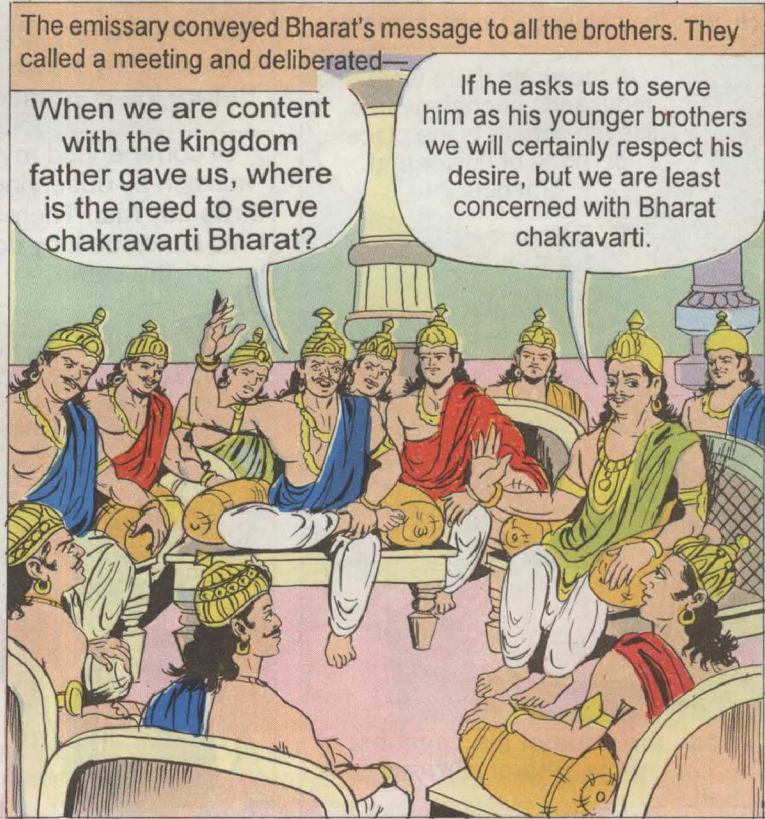
Give them my message that if they want the safety of their kingdoms they should come and be in attendance of Bharat chakravarti.

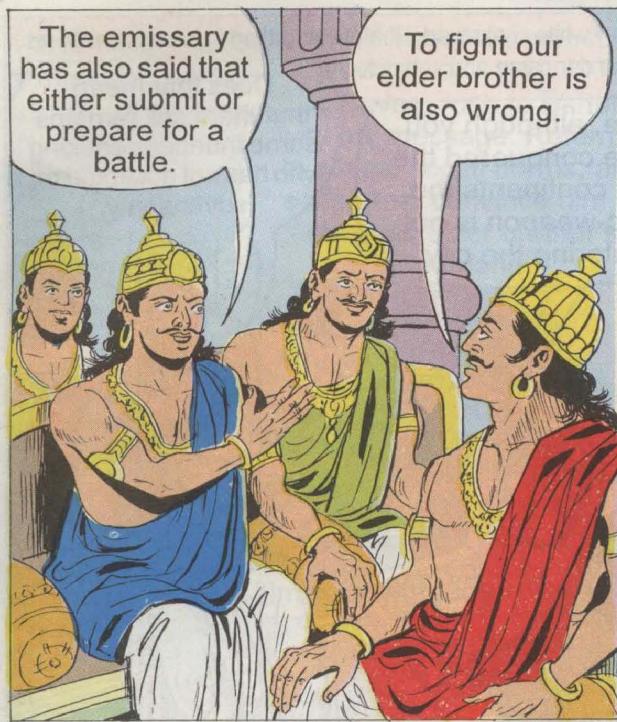


The emissary conveyed Bharat's message to all the brothers. They called a meeting and deliberated—

When we are content with the kingdom father gave us, where is the need to serve chakravarti Bharat?

If he asks us to serve him as his younger brothers we will certainly respect his desire, but we are least concerned with Bharat chakravarti.



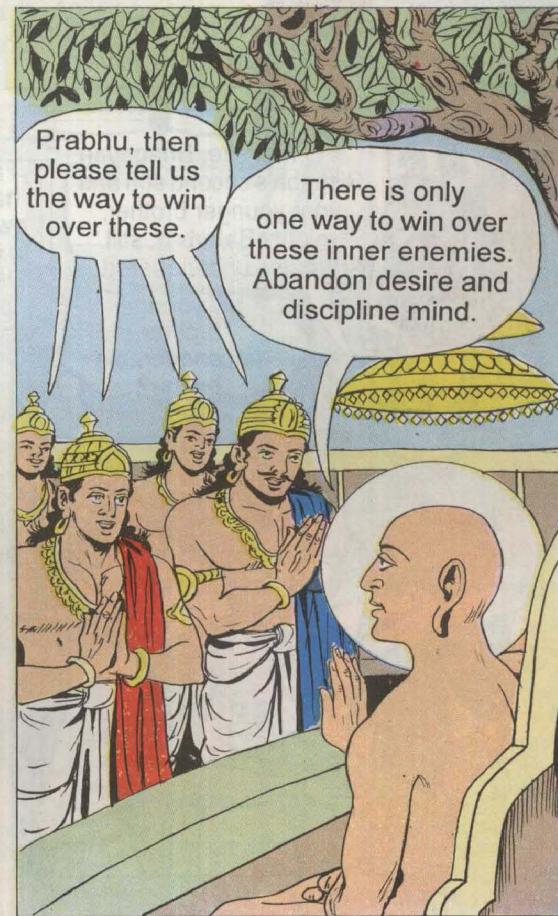
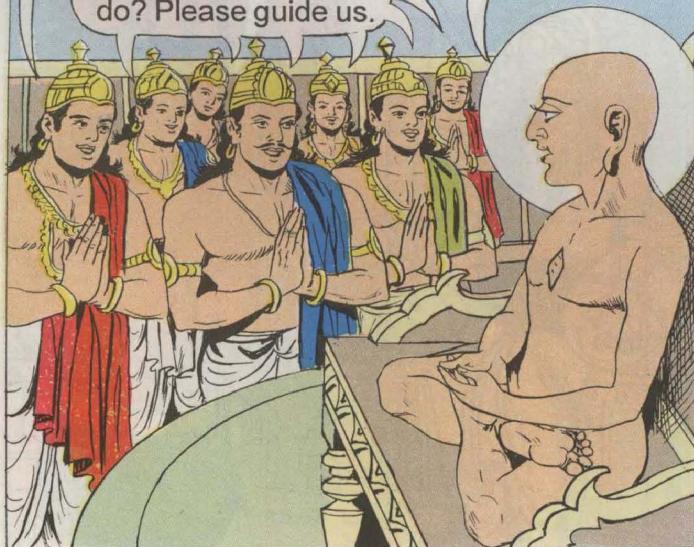


All the 98 brothers went to Prabhu and, after paying homage, asked—

Father, brother Bharat has sent a message to us that either we should serve him or be prepared to face him in a battle. Today brother Bharat has become our enemy.

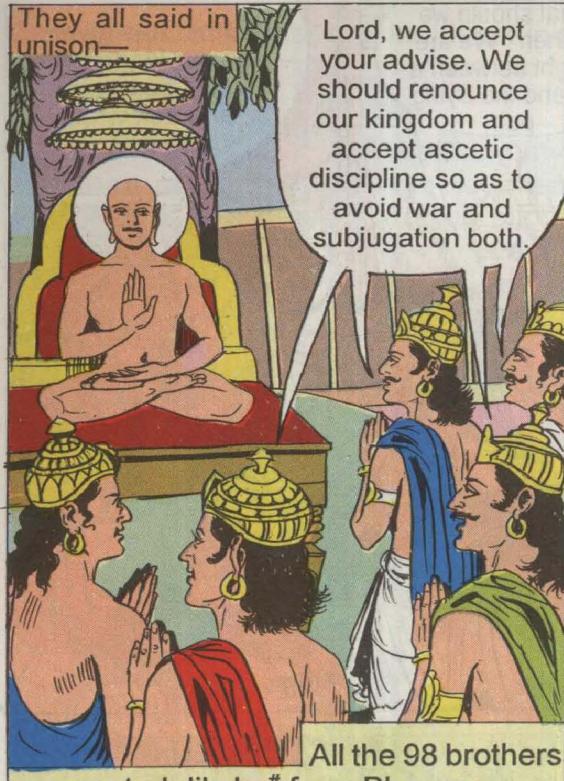
Prabhu, what do we do? Please guide us.

Son, the worst enemies of man are attachment, aversion, passions, and fondness. He who conquers these enemies has neither any fear from anyone nor can he be conquered by anyone.



They all said in unison—

Lord, we accept your advise. We should renounce our kingdom and accept ascetic discipline so as to avoid war and subjugation both.

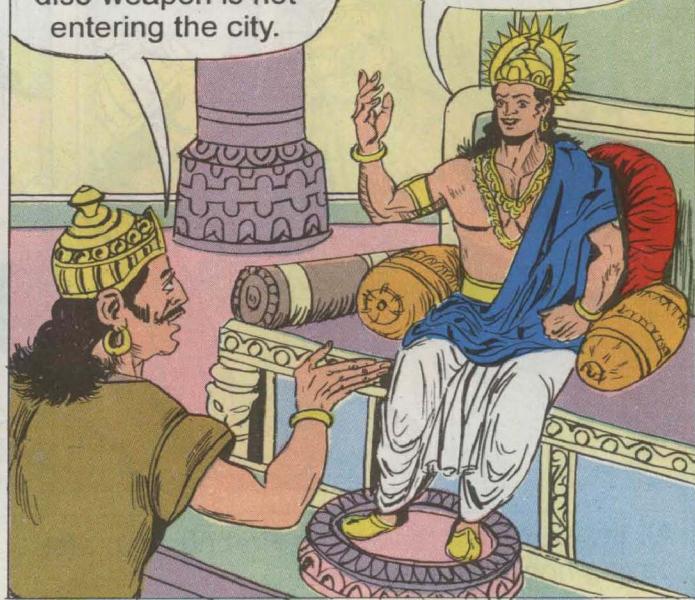


All the 98 brothers accepted diksha[#] from Bhagavan.

One day while chakravarti Bharat was sitting in his assembly, his commander came and submitted—

Sire, although you have conquered the six continents the disc-weapon is not entering the city.

Does that mean that there still remains some independent king who has not accepted my sovereignty.



The commander—

Yes, sire, Bhagavan Rishabh's second son and your younger brother, mighty Bahubali, still remains unconquered

My younger brother, unconquerable by me?



He composed himself and said—

I am in a quandary. On one hand, it is shameful that my own younger brother refuses to obey me; and on the other, it is my duty as an emperor to punish the egotistic. What should I do?

Sire, for a king, his duty as a king gets precedence over that as a brother. Morally too it is the duty of the younger brother to obey the elder one. If he fails his duty it is the duty of the king to punish him.

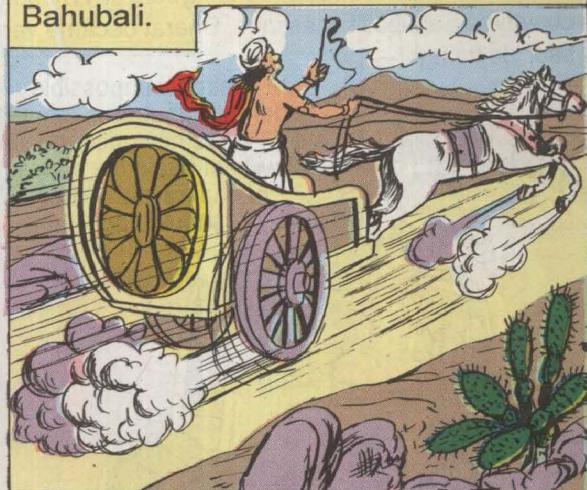


After much deliberation Bharat instructed his emissary Suveg—

Suveg, rush to Bahubali with my message. Referring to ethics, social norms, and scriptures, convince him to obey his elder brother's command.

As you say, sire.

Riding a fast chariot Suveg went to Bahubali.



Bahubali offered him seat with due respect. After pleasantries Suveg said—

Sire, the coronation ceremonies of your brother lasted twelve years but you did not join. It hurts emperor Bharat very much. As a younger brother you should have come.

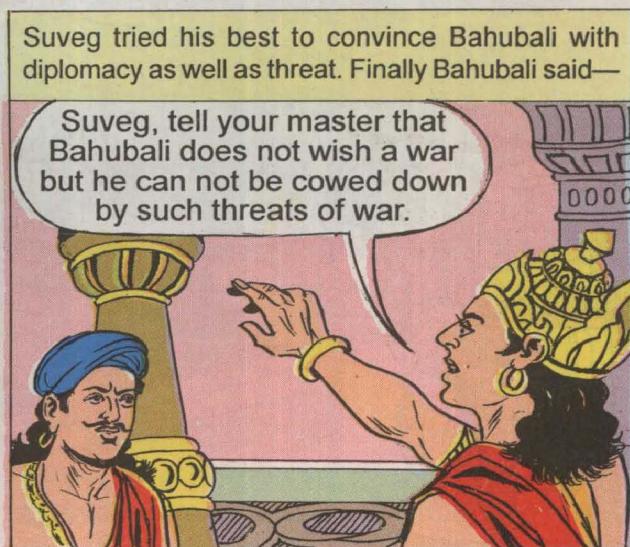
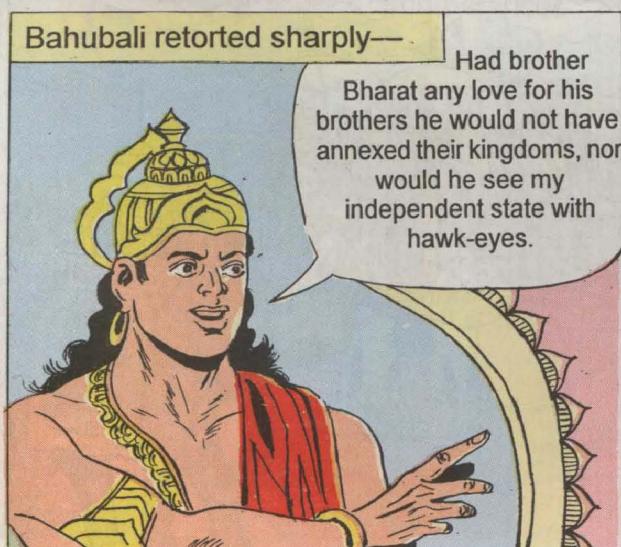


Bahubali retorted sharply—

Had brother Bharat any love for his brothers he would not have annexed their kingdoms, nor would he see my independent state with hawk-eyes.

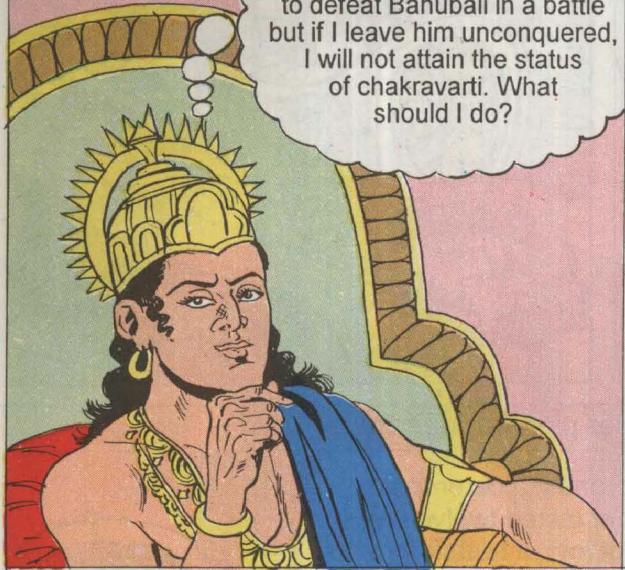
Suveg tried his best to convince Bahubali with diplomacy as well as threat. Finally Bahubali said—

Suveg, tell your master that Bahubali does not wish a war but he can not be cowed down by such threats of war.



Disappointed Suveg returned to Ayodhya. When he conveyed Bahubali's message, Bharat became very sad. He thought—

It is almost impossible to defeat Bahubali in a battle but if I leave him unconquered, I will not attain the status of chakravarti. What should I do?

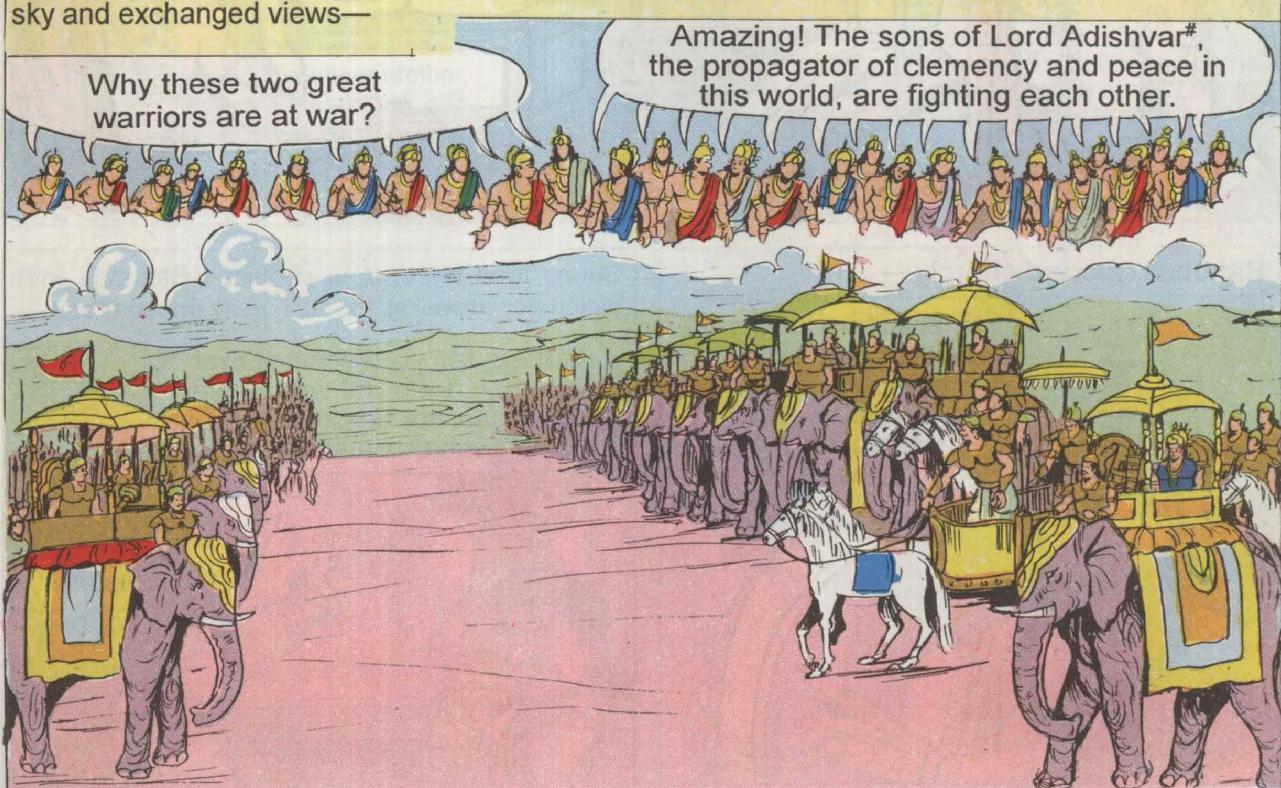


He was in a mental turmoil. At one end he saw Bahubali roaring like a lion, and at the other the immobile disc-weapon.



After much inner struggle, Bharat at last gave marching orders to the commander.

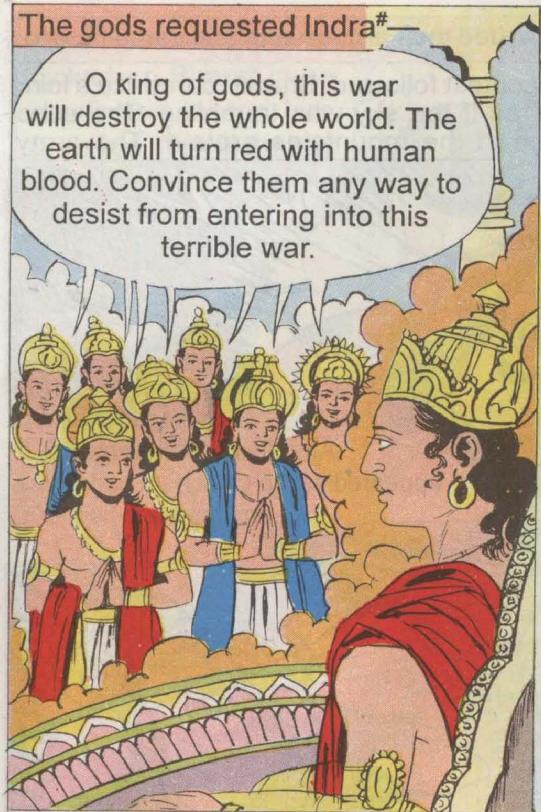
When Bahubali got the news, he too marched with his army. In the battle ground, Bharat's large four pronged army, with thousands of elephants and horses and millions of soldiers, came opposite Bahubali's massive army. To witness this terrifying scene of war thousands of gods assembled in the sky and exchanged views—



Another name of Rishabh Dev; it means the first God.

The gods requested Indra#—

O king of gods, this war will destroy the whole world. The earth will turn red with human blood. Convince them any way to desist from entering into this terrible war.

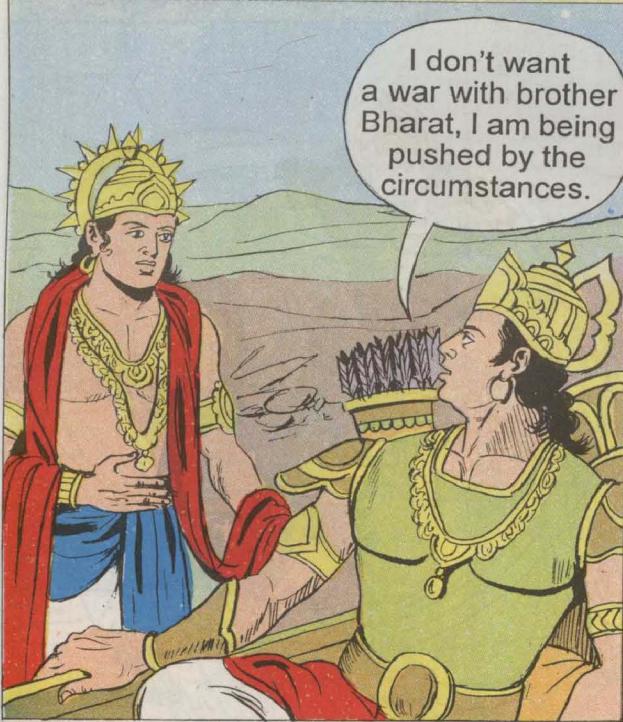


With hundreds of gods Indra approached chakravarti Bharat and Bahubali and said—



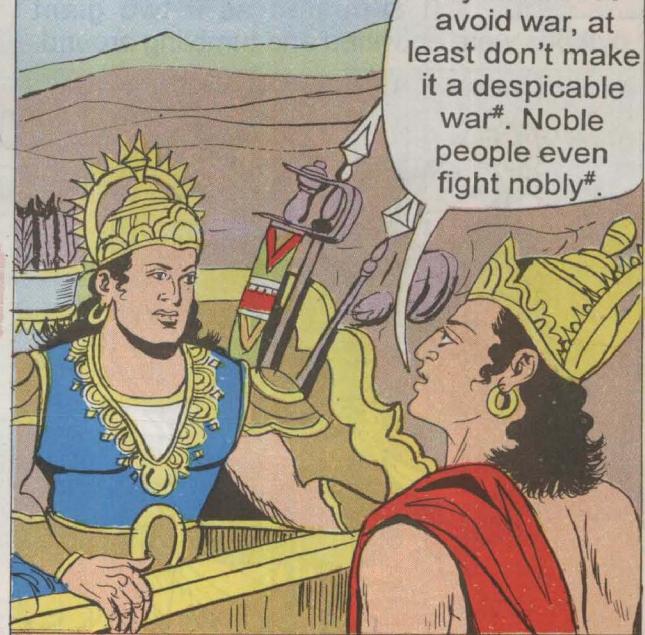
Bharat explained about his compulsion. Bahubali also conveyed to Indra—

I don't want a war with brother Bharat, I am being pushed by the circumstances.



In the end Indra requested—

If you cannot avoid war, at least don't make it a despicable war#. Noble people even fight nobly#.



To avoid a terrible holocaust they both agreed to this contest of individual strength.

In a despicable war armies fight with highly destructive weapons and millions of beings are killed. 15

In a noble war the opponents use a five way contest of individual strength as combat. For example—staring contest, sound contest, wrestling, fist-fight, and mace-due. # The king of gods.

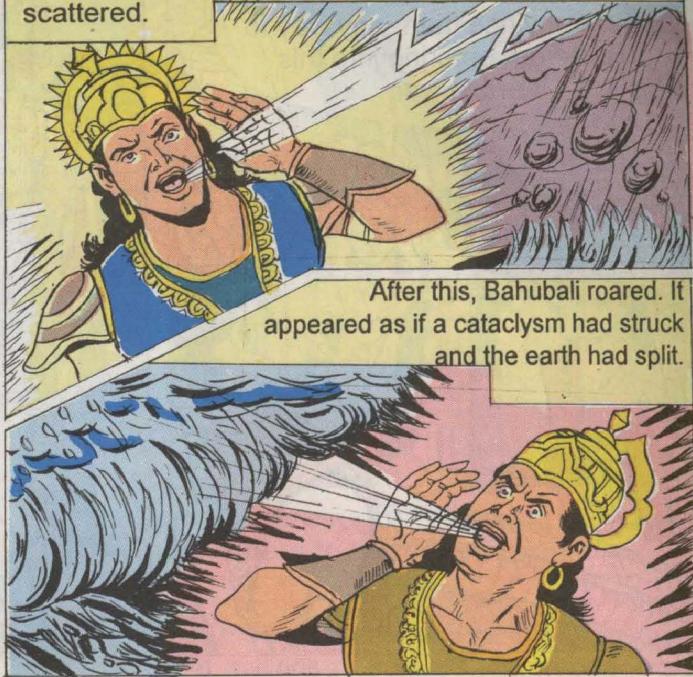
Bharat and Bahubali both got down from the elephants, discarded their armaments and came face to face in the middle of the ground.

First was the staring contest. They looked without blinking into each other's angry and gaping eyes. Before the end of the day Bharat blinked.



Bahubali won the staring contest.

Then voice contest followed. Bharat roared like a lion. It appeared as if the sky was trembling. The echo reverberated in the mountains around. The army scattered.



After this, Bahubali roared. It appeared as if a cataclysm had struck and the earth had split.

Two to three times again Bharat roared but was defeated. This was followed by wrestling and the two mighty pounced at each other.

It appeared as if two giant pythons were entwined and tumbling around.



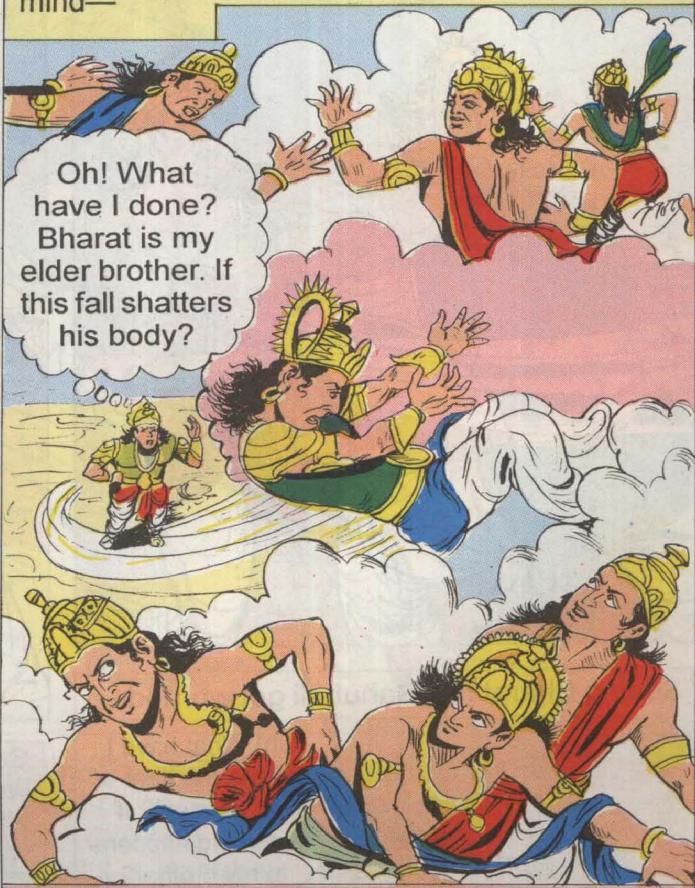
Then they jumped high like agile apes.



All of a sudden Bahubali picked up Bharat in his hands and tossed him, like a ball, high in the sky.

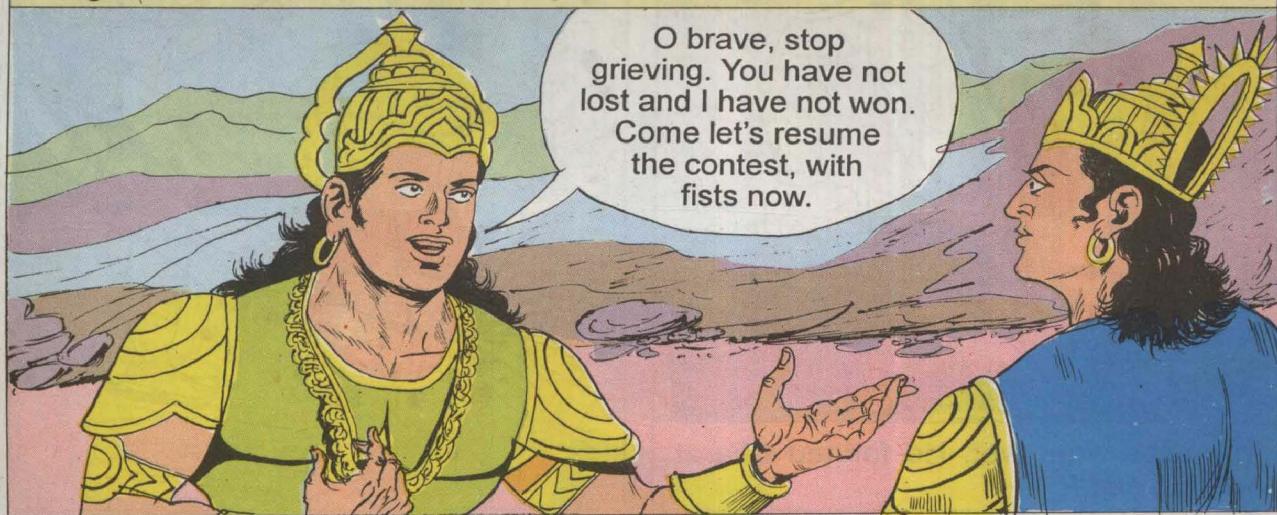


The gods stationed in the sky rushed away. Seeing Bharat helplessly falling, Bahubali changed his mind—



Bahubali spread his arms and caught falling Bharat in midair as a flower.

The grief of defeat fueled Bharat's anger. Bahubali tried to pacify him—

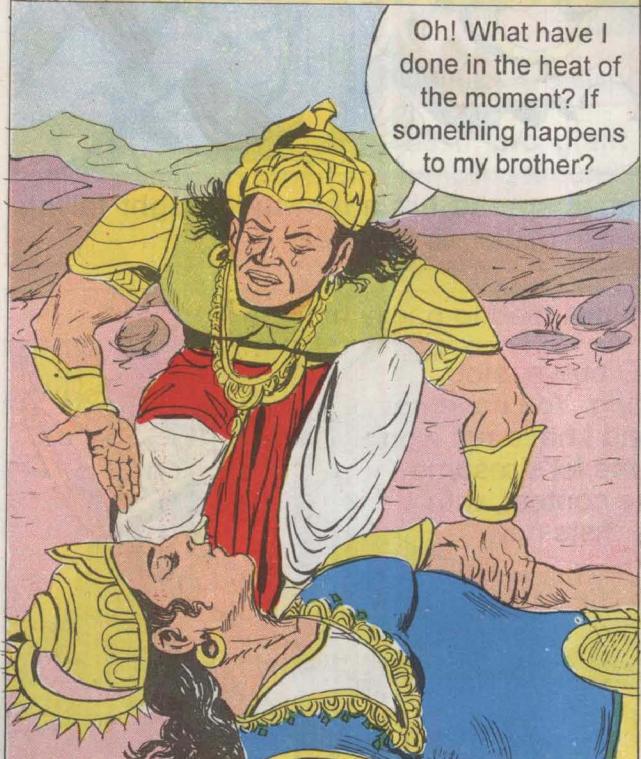


Mad with anger, Bharat hit at Bahubali's chest with his fist.



Seeing Bharat fall, Bahubali got worried—

Oh! What have I done in the heat of the moment? If something happens to my brother?



His eyes were wet. He fanned Bharat with his scarf.

Bahubali at once followed suit and Bharat fell unconscious on the ground.



Soon Bharat regained consciousness. He waved his mace and hit at Bahubali's head with all the force he could muster. Bahubali was thrust knee-deep into the ground.

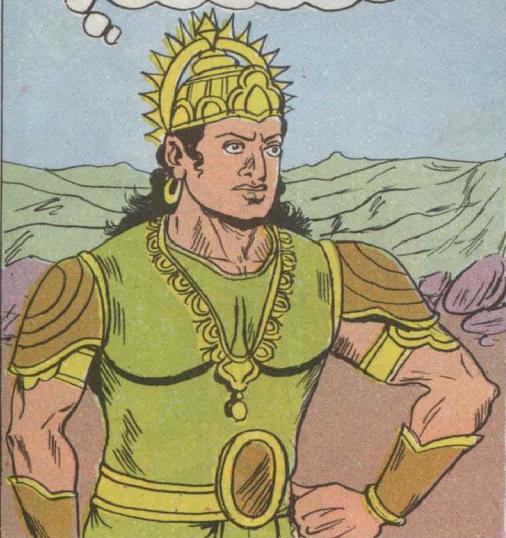


Bahubali pushed himself out, took his mace and hit at Bharat's head. Bharat was thrust in the ground up to his neck.

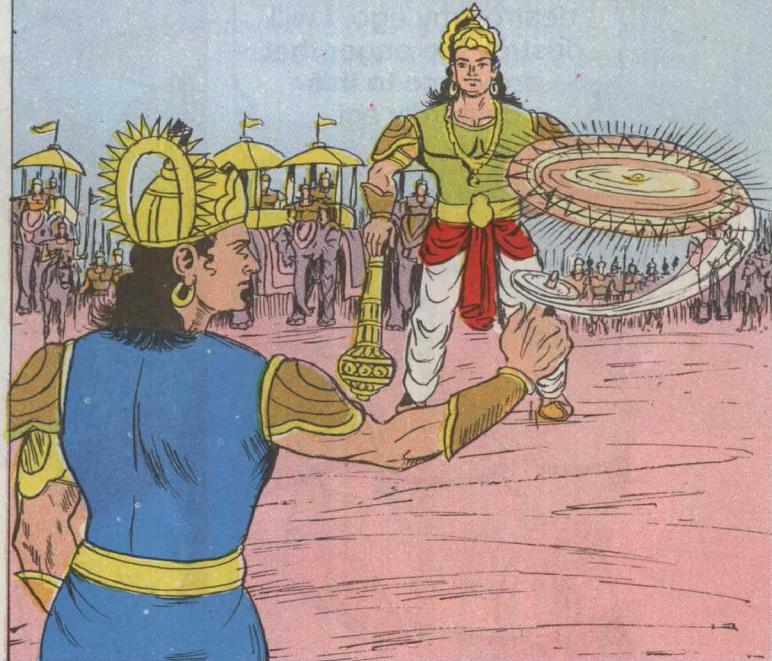


Bharat had to apply all his strength to come out. Now his anger flamed like a hissing serpent. He thought—

Now I will have to decide to fight. I have to win over Bahubali whatever way I can.



Bharat now raised his hand and started swirling the disc weapon on his finger. It started emitting fire and sparks. Swirling the disc with great speed he launched it at Bahubali.

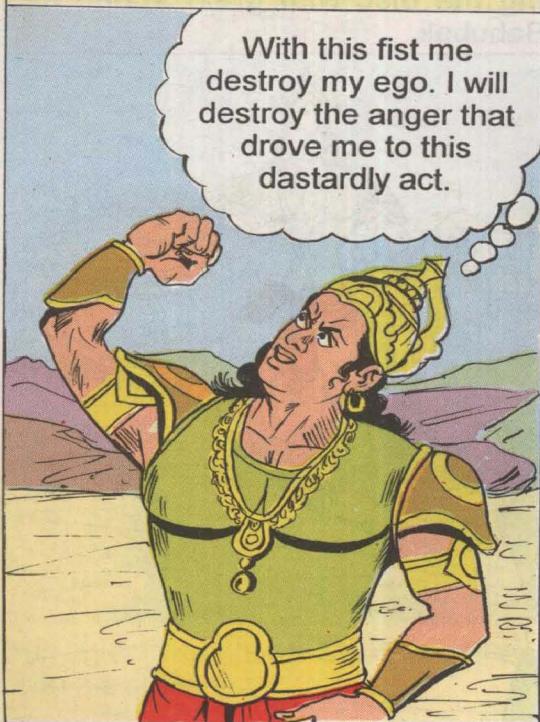


The disc reached Bahubali and spinning once around him returned to Bharat's finger.*

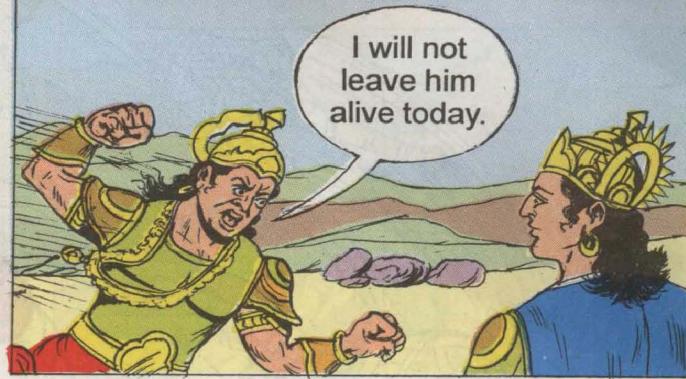


Bahubali was filled with remorse. He raised his eyes to his raised fist—

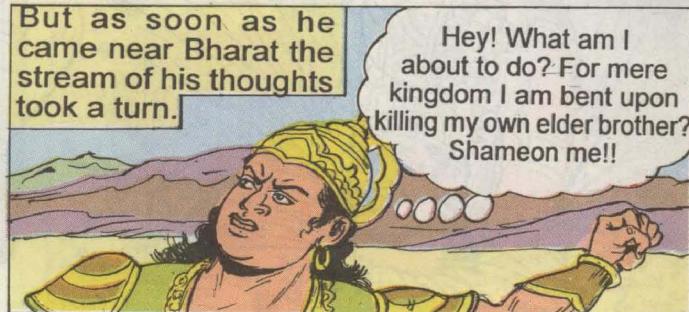
With this fist me destroy my ego. I will destroy the anger that drove me to this dastardly act.



Piqued by this, Bahubali raised his fist and pounced like a hawk at Bharat.



But as soon as he came near Bharat the stream of his thoughts took a turn.



Hey! What am I about to do? For mere kingdom I am bent upon killing my own elder brother? Shame on me!!

Bahubali opened his raised fist, pulled out his hair, and said—

Oh, elder brother, I caused you so much pain just for the kingdom. Please pardon me.

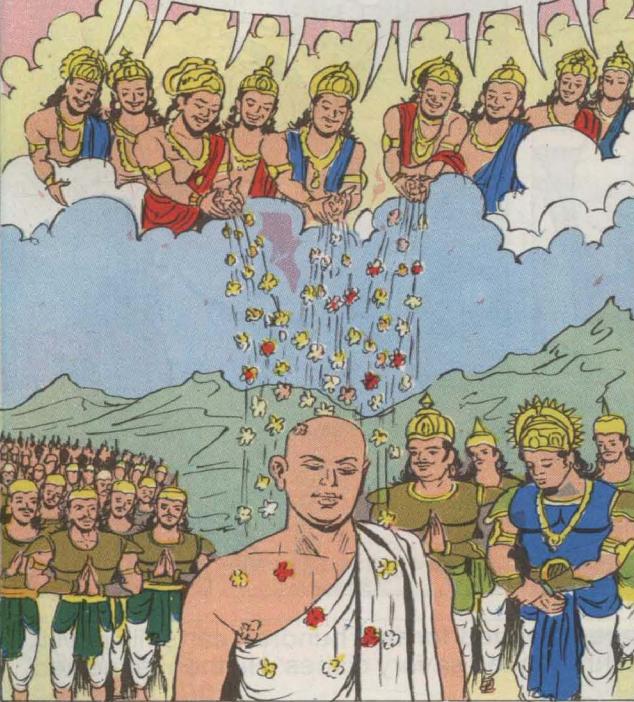


As a rule kinfolk are immune to disc-weapon.

20

Rooted at the same spot Bahubali changed to the ascetic garb and started meditating in the kayotsarg posture. The gods showered flowers.

Hail you Bahubali, the epitome of clemency. Your decision is commendable. You have earned eternal fame in the three worlds.



This strange turn of events melted Bharat's pride. With bent head he paid homage to Bahubali—

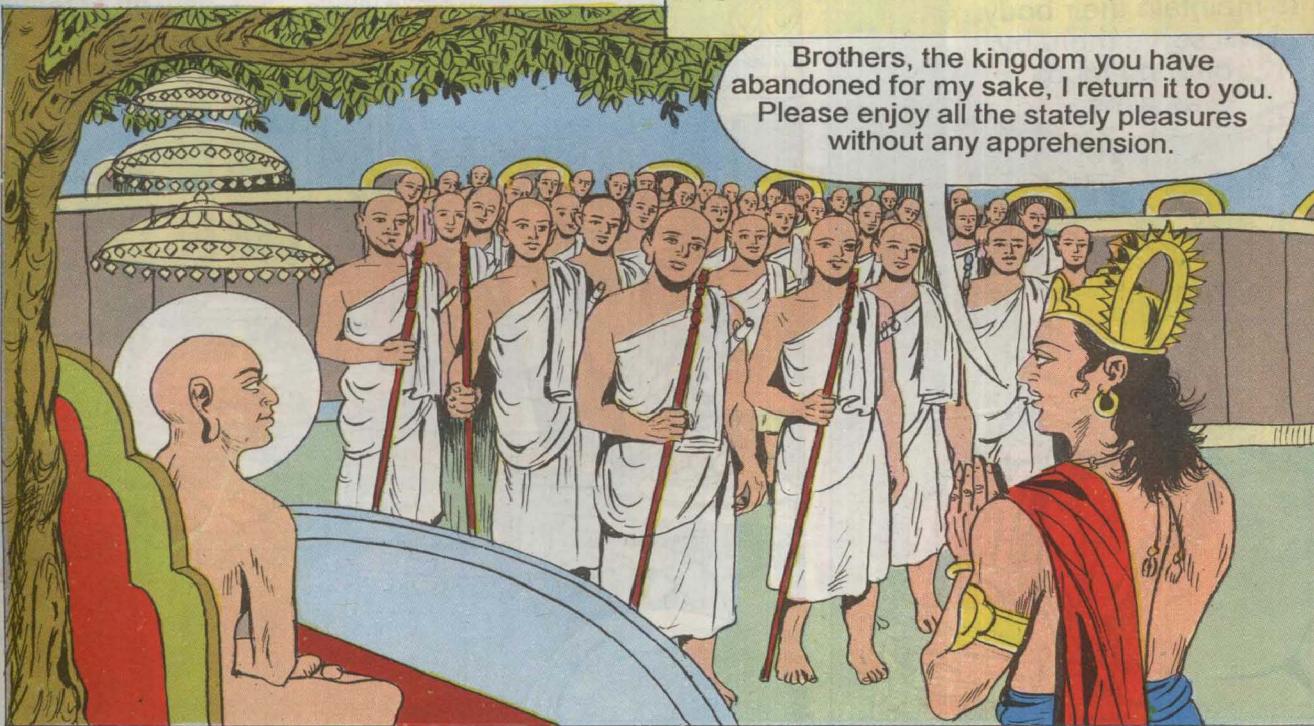
Brother, you're a blessed one. O brave, you are great. An emperor's pride made me inflict pain on you. Please pardon me.



All present paid homage to Bahubali. Bharat returned to Ayodhya.

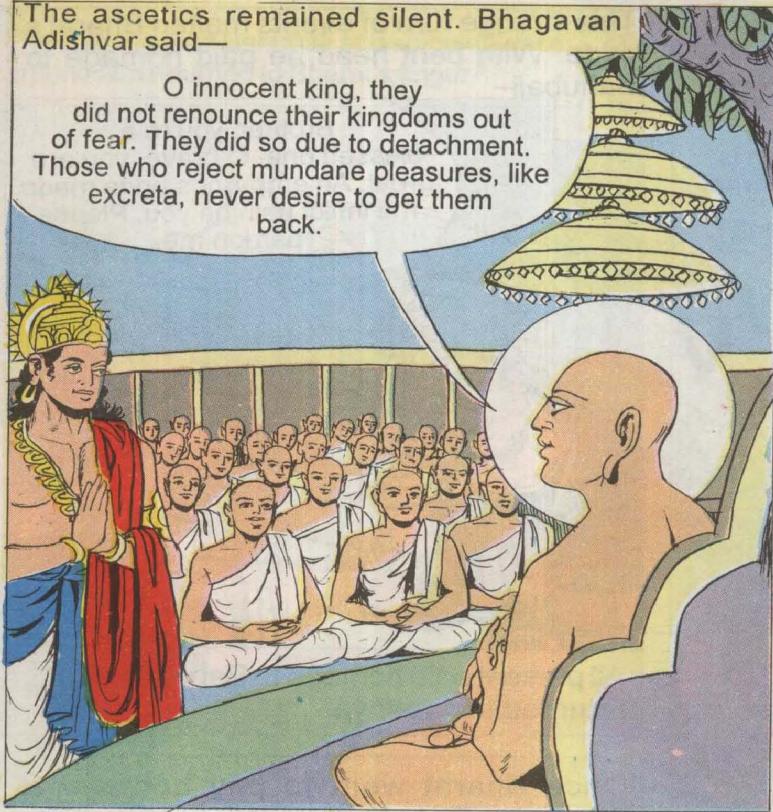
Once Bharat went to pay homage to Bhagavan Rishabh Dev. When he saw his ninety eight brothers in ascetic garb, he was filled with remorse. He approached them to beg their pardon —

Brothers, the kingdom you have abandoned for my sake, I return it to you. Please enjoy all the stately pleasures without any apprehension.



The ascetics remained silent. Bhagavan Adishvar said—

O innocent king, they did not renounce their kingdoms out of fear. They did so due to detachment. Those who reject mundane pleasures, like excreta, never desire to get them back.



Bharat thought—

When the brothers don't want anything, how do I serve them?



He got an idea—

They must eat to maintain their body. I will serve them by offering food as alms.



Bharat at once arranged for five hundred carts filled with variety of freshly cooked savory dishes. He then requested the ascetics—

O brothers, please oblige me by accepting this food.

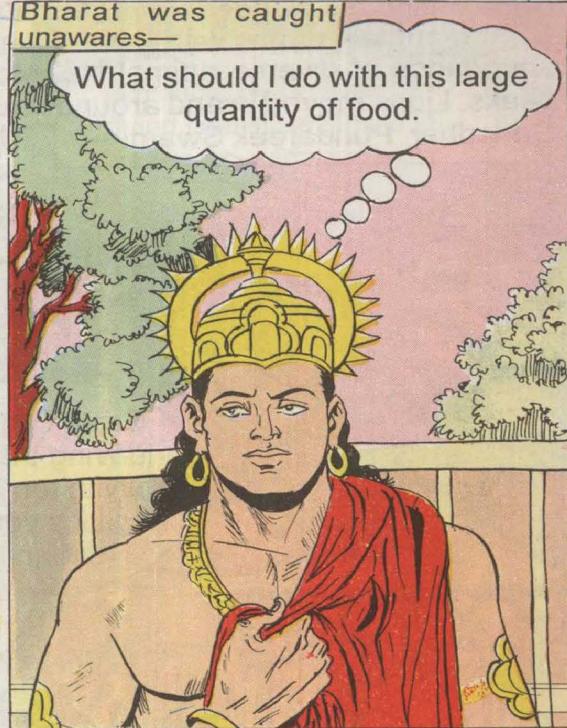
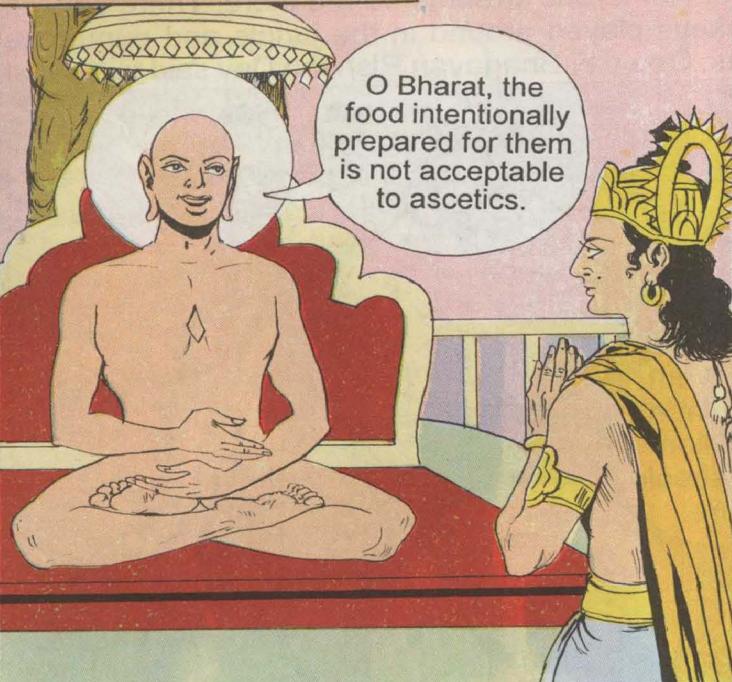


Prabhu Adishvar explained Bharat—

O Bharat, the food intentionally prepared for them is not acceptable to ascetics.

Bharat was caught unawares—

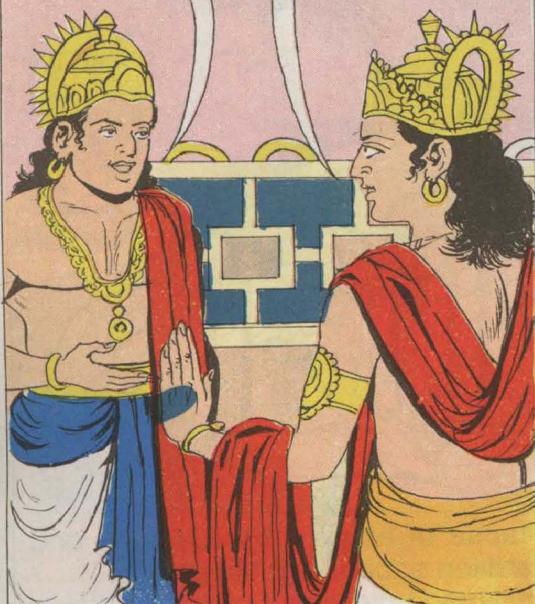
What should I do with this large quantity of food.



Indra was standing nearby. Bharat asked him—

King of gods, please tell me what to do with this food.

Chakravarti, distribute it among wise and accomplished people.

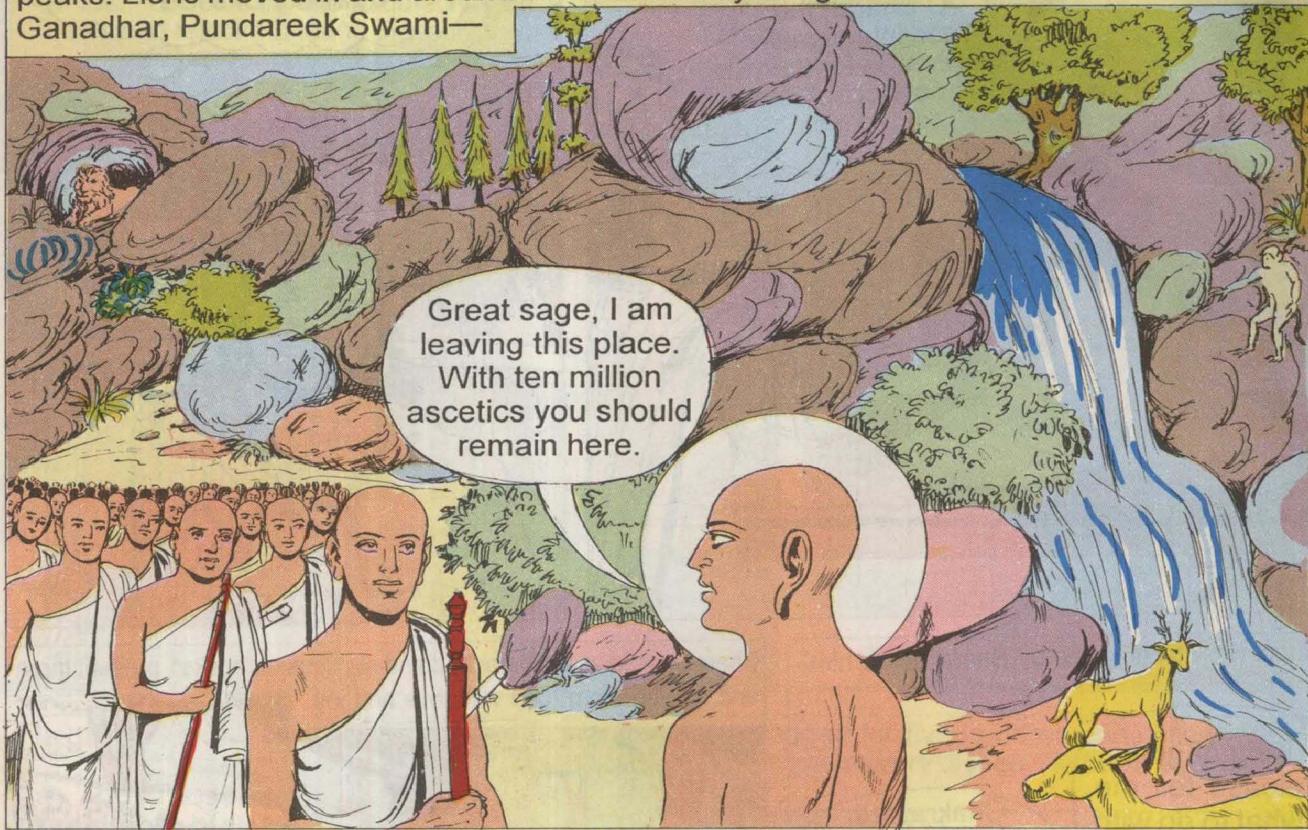


Bharat invited all the detached and studious shravaks[#] present there and offered them food with love and joy.

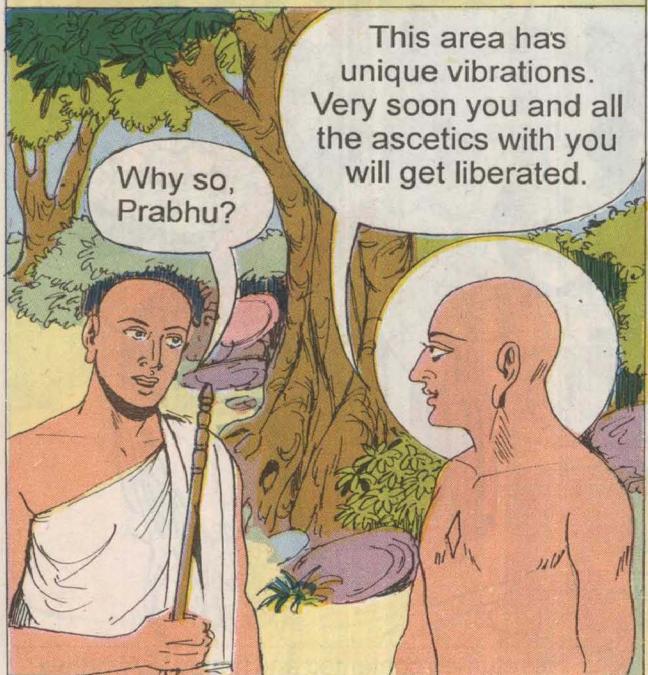


He returned contented and happy to Ayodhya.

Once during his wanderings, Prabhu Adishvar arrived at Shatrunjaya mountain. It was a great mountain dense with trees, foliage. Numerous streams flowed there. There was an abundance of diverse animal life. Monkeys played around in the jungle and numerous peaks. Lions moved in and around caves. One day Bhagavan Rishabh Dev said to his first Ganadhar, Pundareek Swami—

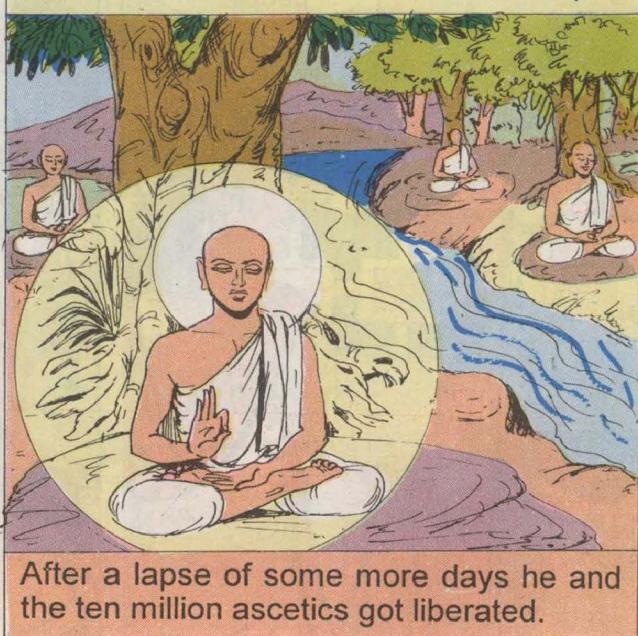


Pundareek Swami asked with surprise—



This area has unique vibrations. Very soon you and all the ascetics with you will get liberated.

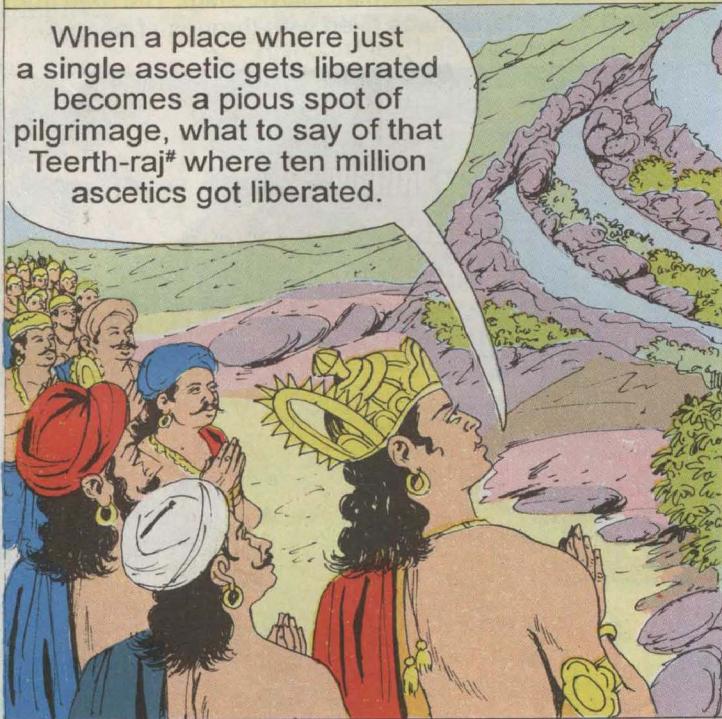
Prabhu moved ahead. A few days later Ganadhar Pundareek Swami attained omniscience.



After a lapse of some more days he and the ten million ascetics got liberated.

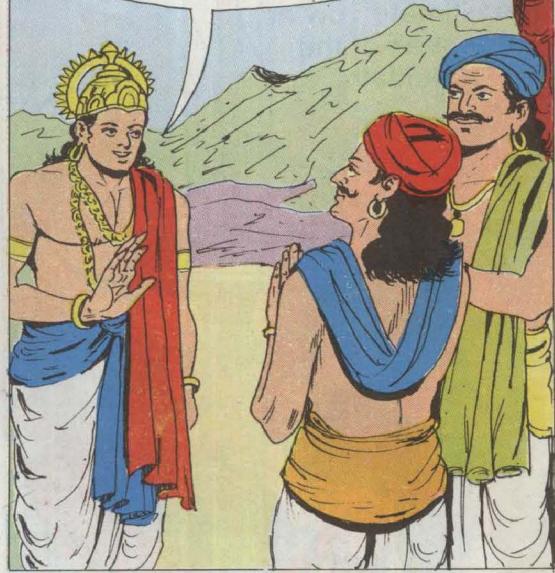
When chakravarti Bharat got the news, he went to Shatrunjaya and paying homage to the pilgrimage center he said—

When a place where just a single ascetic gets liberated becomes a pious spot of pilgrimage, what to say of that Teerth-raj[#] where ten million ascetics got liberated.



The chakravarti then gave instructions—

Immediately Construct a grand gem inlaid temple at this pious pilgrimage center.



Artisans worked day and night and constructed an amazing temple. Idols of Bhagavan Rishabh Dev and Pundareek Swami were installed there. Bharat came to see that huge temple.[#]



Best among pilgrimage centers.

Since then this mountain is known as the first pilgrimage center.

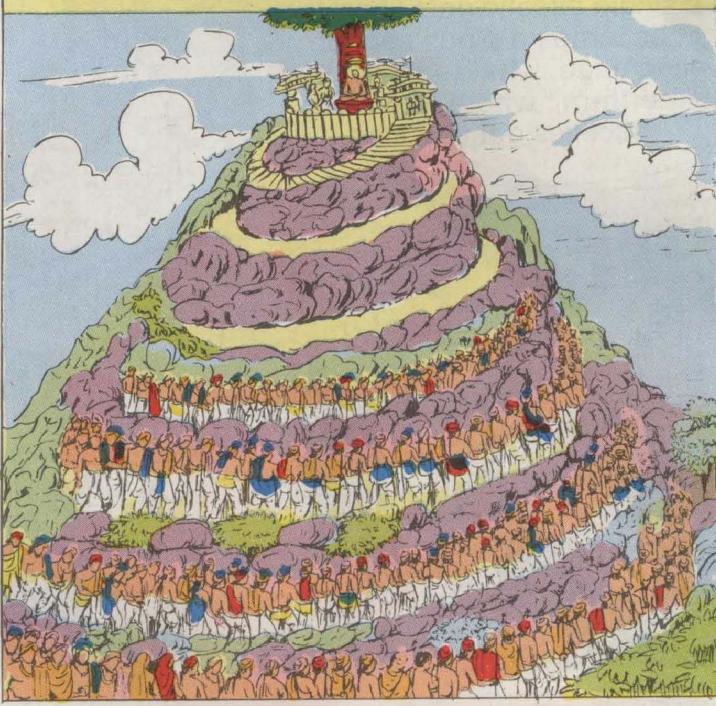
One day the guard of Ashtapad mountain came to Bharat chakravarti and informed—

Sire, Prabhu Adishvar, along with ten thousand ascetics, has taken the ultimate vow at the peak of the mountain.

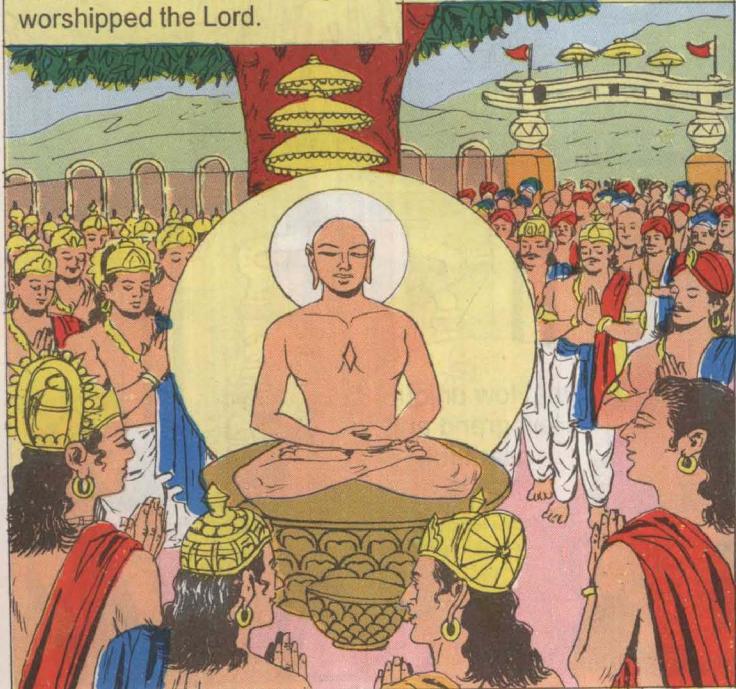
What? Prabhu is leaving us!



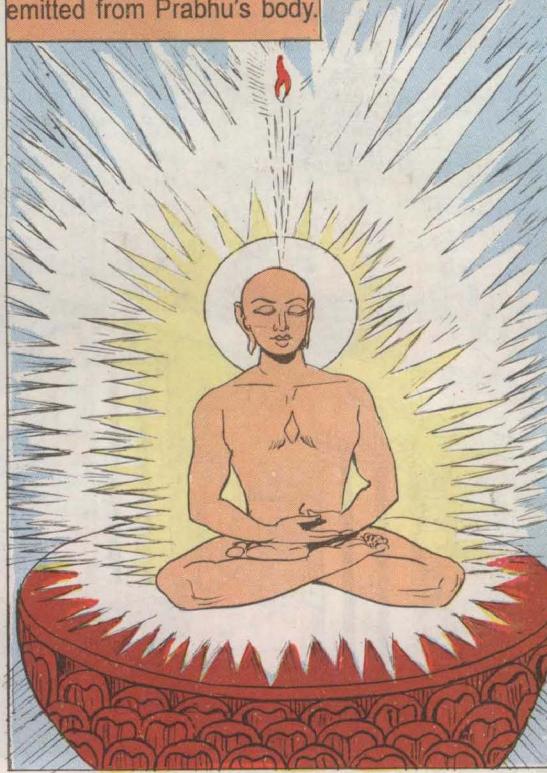
Bharat at once rushed bare feet towards Ashtapad. Thousands of men and women followed him. The road from Ayodhya to Ashtapad was filled with throngs of people.



Reaching Ashtapad, Bharat paid homage to Prabhu who was sitting still in the paryanka posture. Bharat chakravarti circumambulated Bhagavan and sat before him. Thousands of humans and innumerable gods offered their last homage and worshipped the Lord.

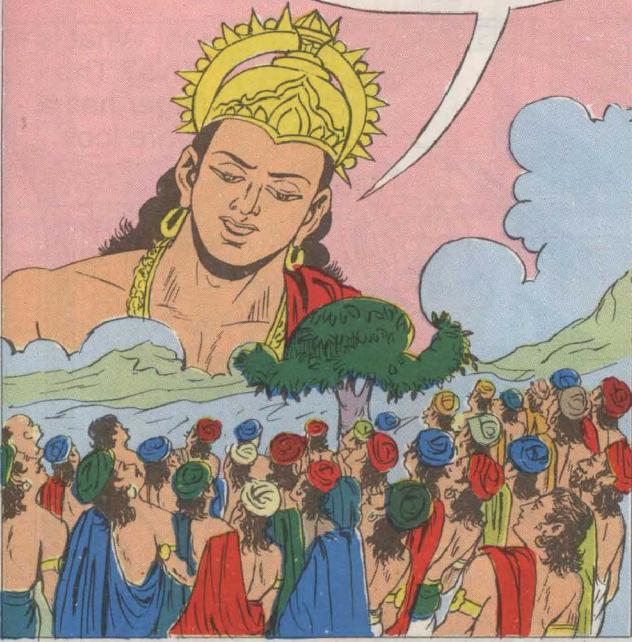


Before this massive congregation a spark of light emitted from Prabhu's body.

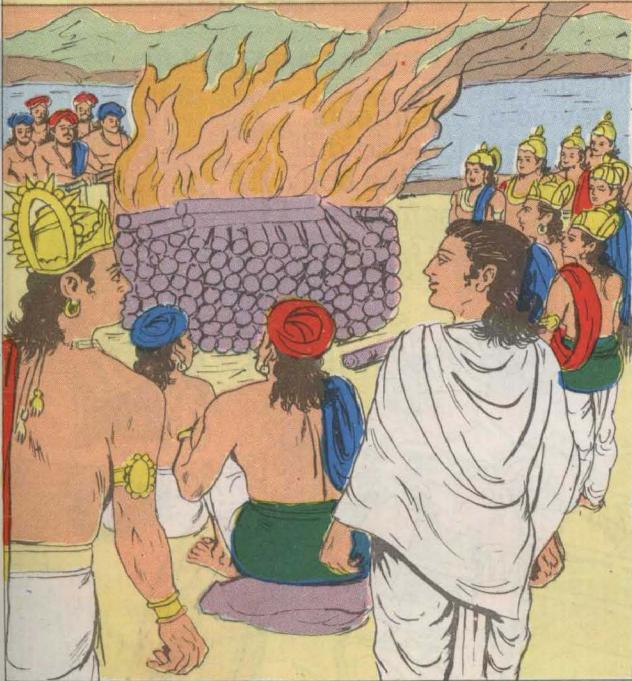


Everyone looked agape in astonishment. The king of gods announced—

The first Tirthankar of this Avasarpini, Bhagavan Rishabh Dev, has attained liberation.

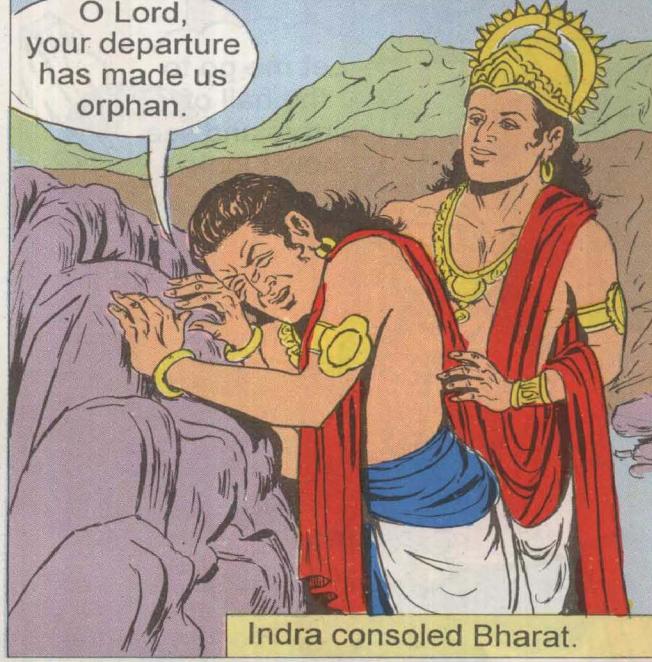


Gods and humans together made a funeral pyre with sandal-wood. The earthly body of Prabhu was consumed by fire.



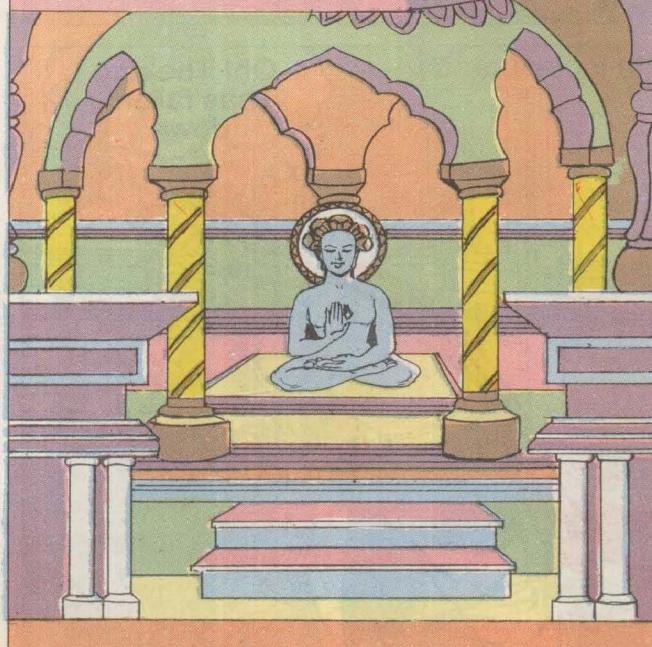
Thousands of eyes shed tears. Bharat chakravarti cried like a child.

O Lord,
your departure
has made us
orphan.



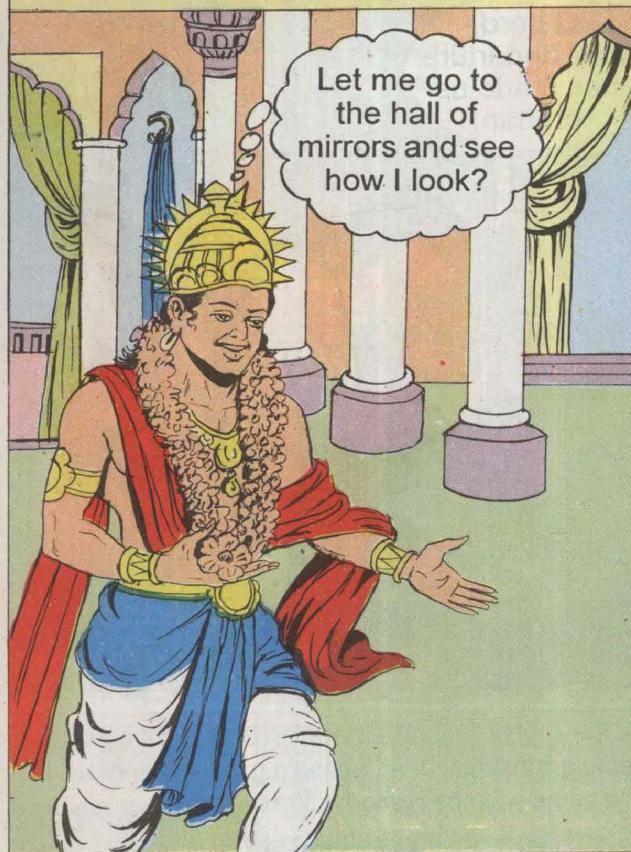
Indra consoled Bharat.

At the spot of Prabhu's liberation Bharat got a grand temple constructed. At the main gate was engraved the name—Simha Nishadya Prasad.#



An eloquent description of Ashtapad Teerth is available in Acharya Hemchandra Suri's Trishashti Shalaka Purush Charitra, part I, verses 565-685. In this temple were installed four all-time-Jina images including that of Rishabhanan, 27 and images of the 24 Tirthankars of this Avasarpini. All these were made of gemstones in colours and sizes associated with those Tirthankars.

One day, after taking his bath, chakravarti Bharat wore his divine dress. He then put a garland of fresh flowers on his neck and embellished his body with ornaments. Now he thought—



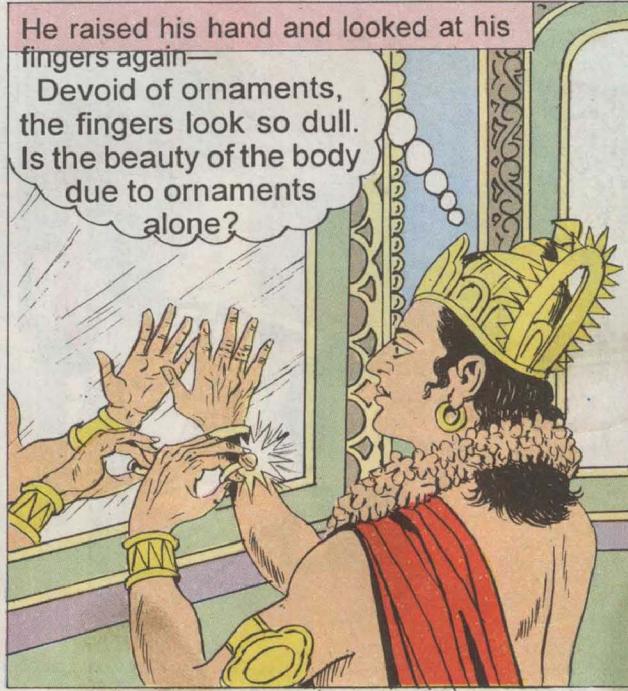
He came to the hall of mirrors and stood before a full size mirror to appreciate his own beauty. Just then he chanced to look at his fingers—



He looked around—

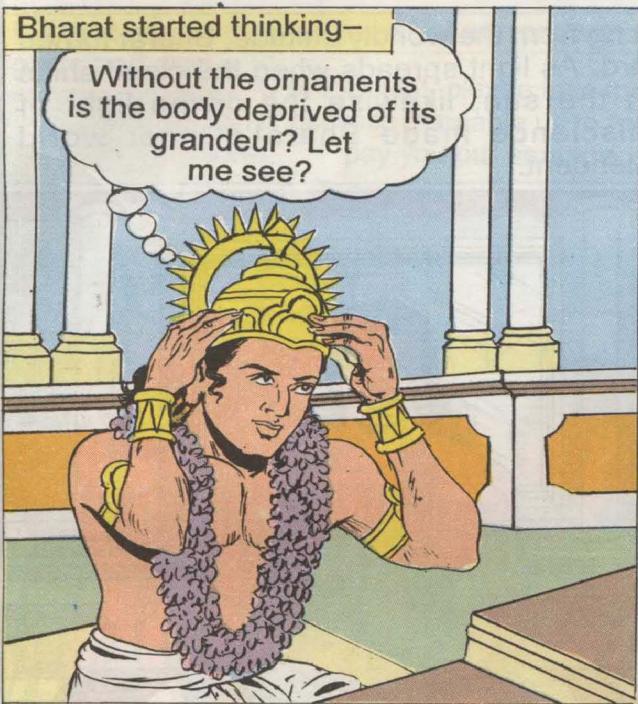


He raised his hand and looked at his fingers again—



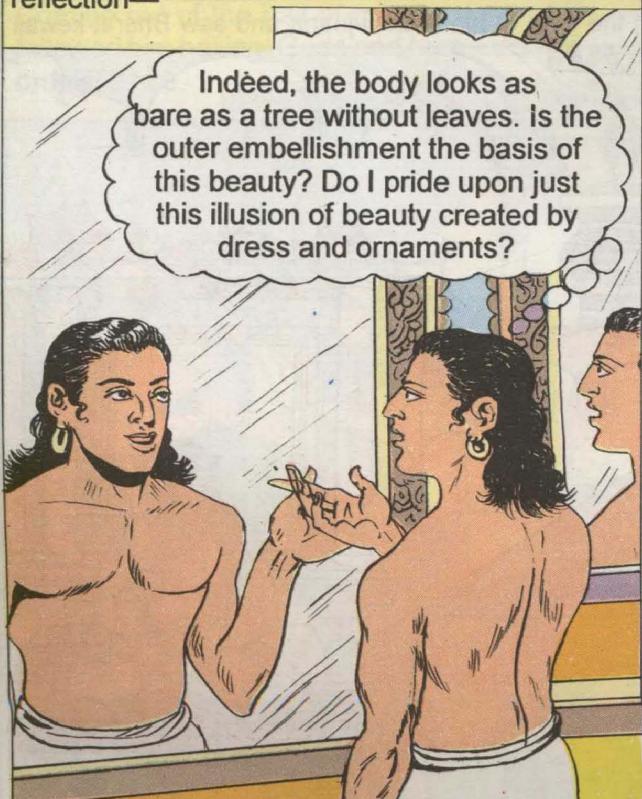
Bharat started thinking—

Without the ornaments
is the body deprived of its
grandeur? Let
me see?



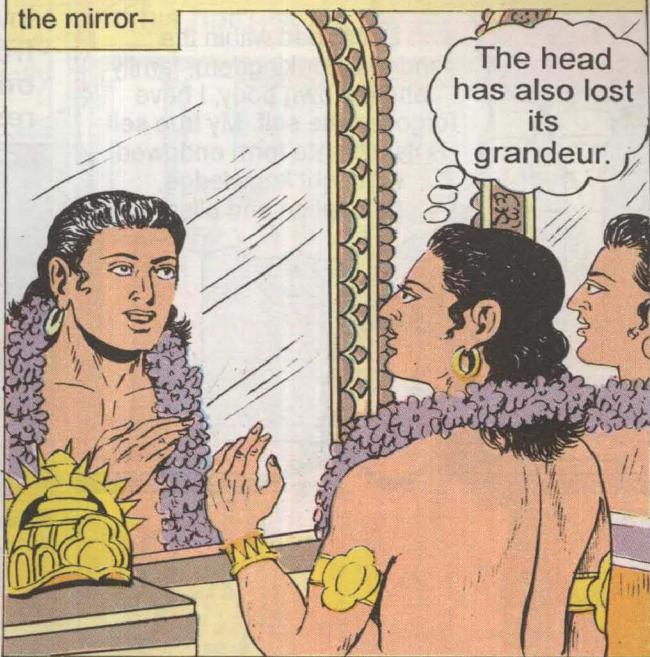
One after another he discarded all his ornaments and kept looking at the mirror. After discarding all his ornaments he finally observed his reflection—

Indeed, the body looks as bare as a tree without leaves. Is the outer embellishment the basis of this beauty? Do I pride upon just this illusion of beauty created by dress and ornaments?



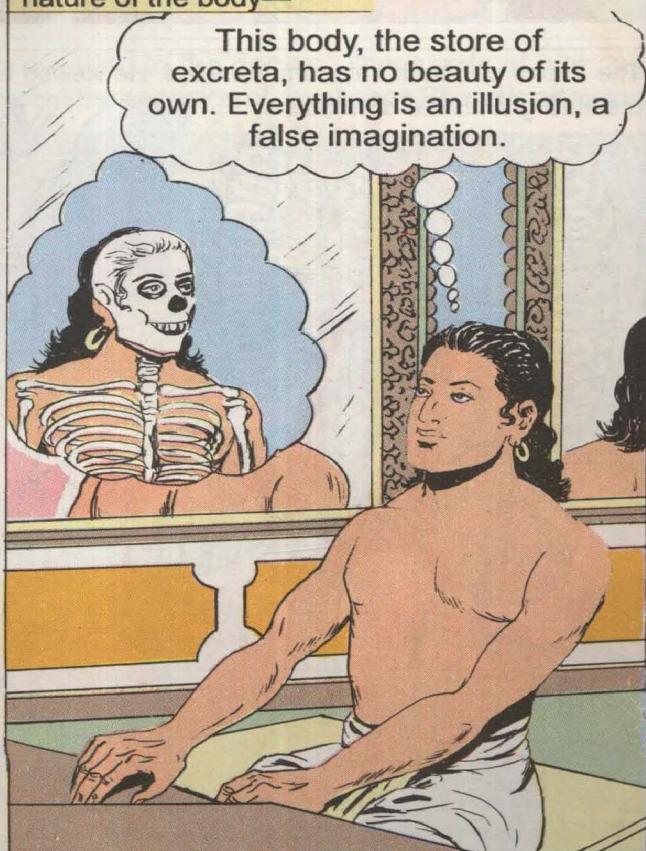
He lifted his crown from his head and looked into the mirror—

The head has also lost its grandeur.



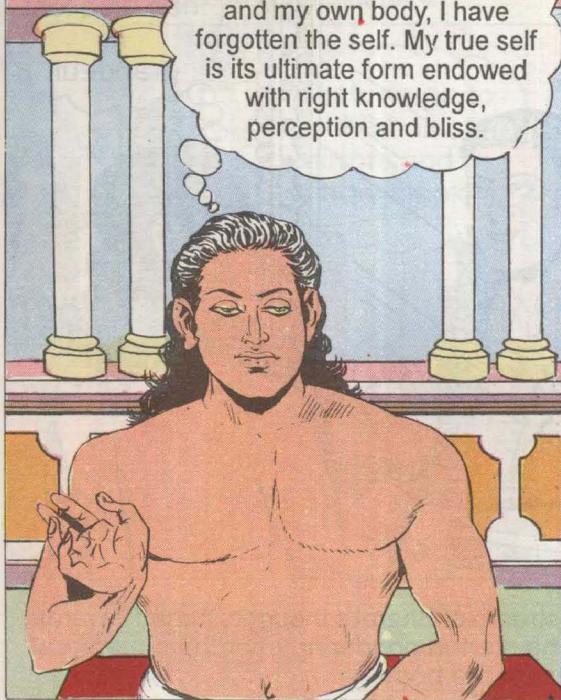
The stream of Bharat's thoughts turned inwards and he started pondering over the ephemeral nature of the body—

This body, the store of excreta, has no beauty of its own. Everything is an illusion, a false imagination.

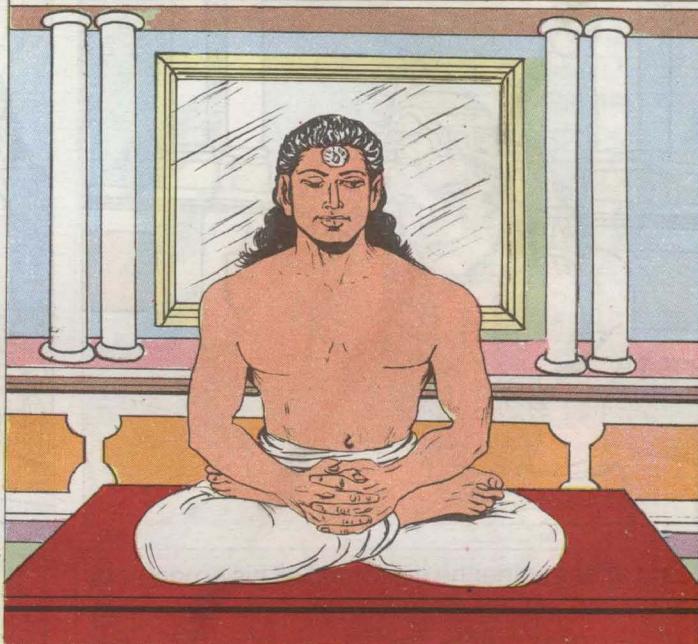


He thought—

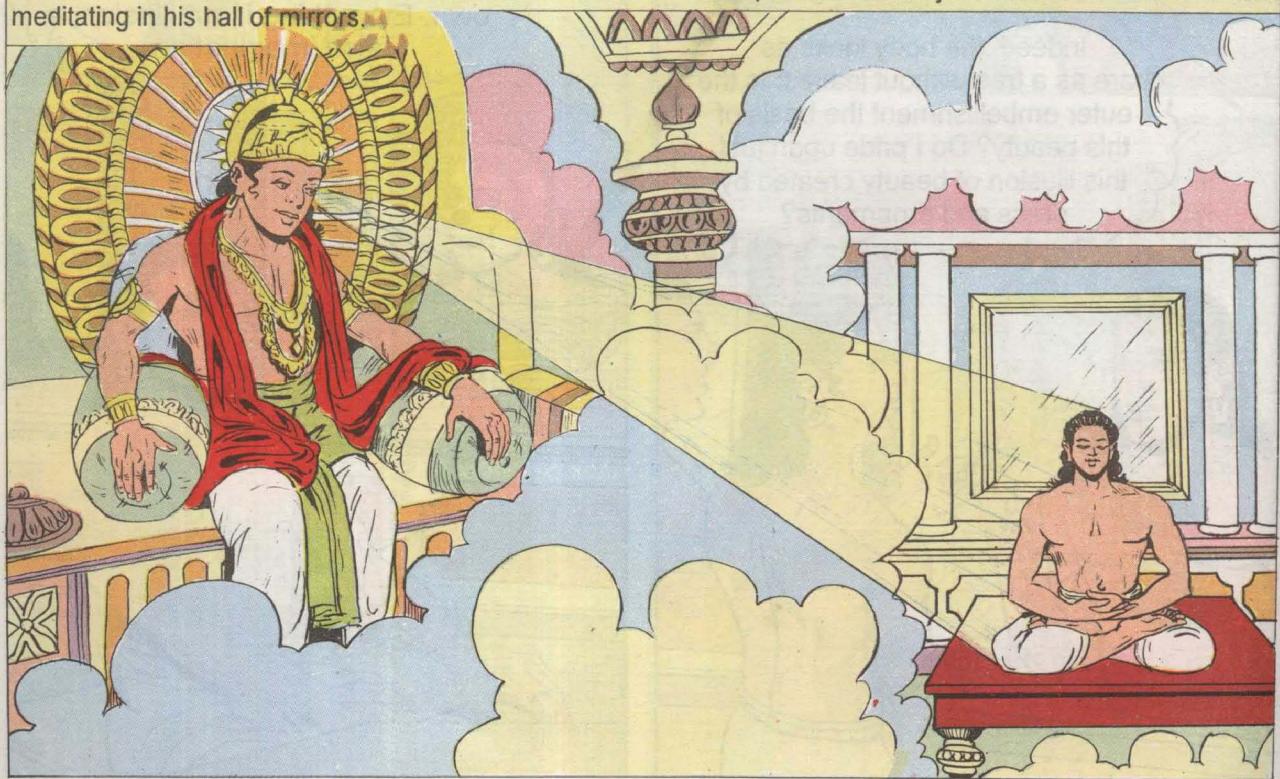
Entrapped within the fondness for kingdom, family and my own body, I have forgotten the self. My true self is its ultimate form endowed with right knowledge, perception and bliss.



Shifting from the worldly attitude, Bharat turned inward. As light spreads when the cloud shifts from the sun, likewise the divine light of omniscience made Bharat's inner world resplendent.

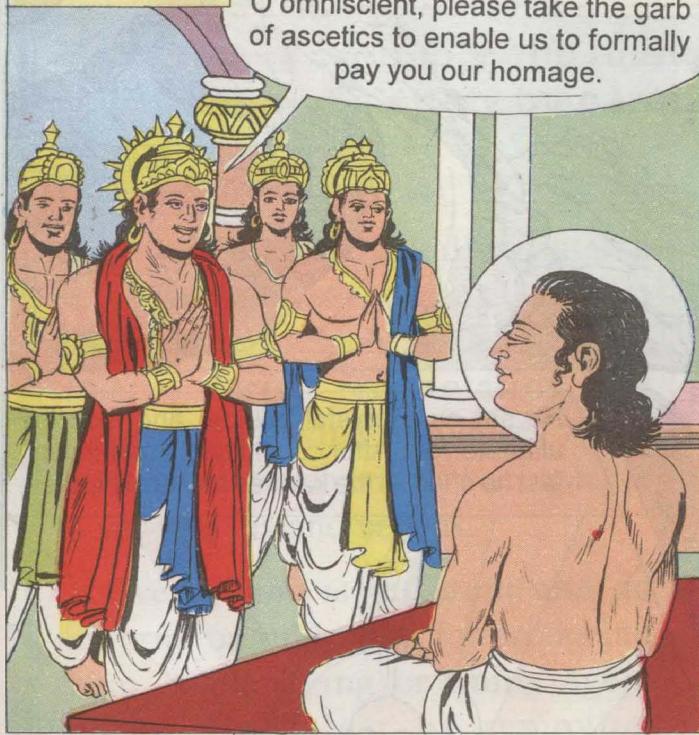


The throne of Saudharmendra trembled. He viewed with the help of his Avadhi-jnana and saw Bharat-kewali meditating in his hall of mirrors.

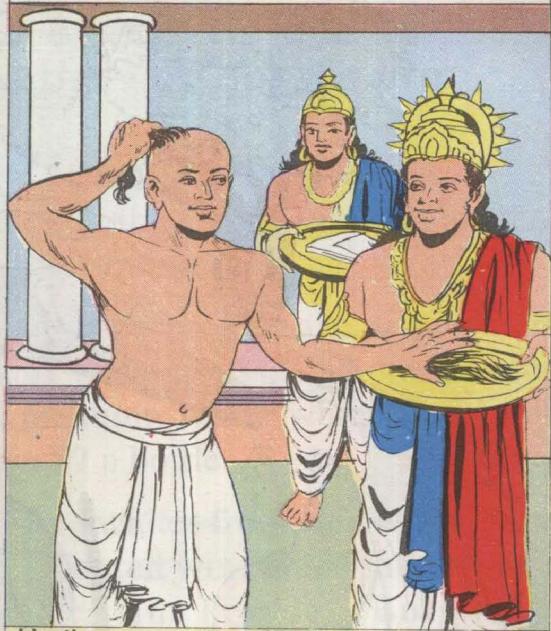


Indra at once came to the hall of mirrors with other gods and said—

Omniscient, please take the garb of ascetics to enable us to formally pay you our homage.

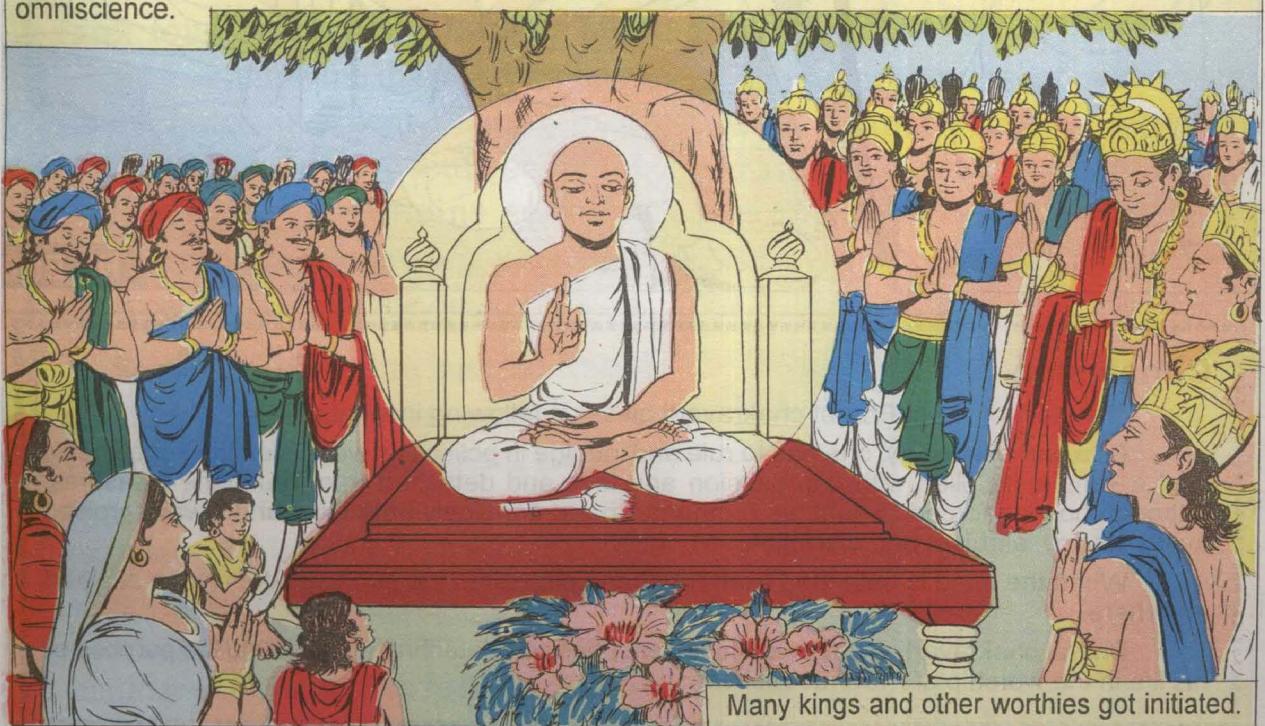


Kewali Bharat pulled out five fistful of his hair.



He then wore the ascetic-garb and took the rajoharan[#] and other equipment provided by gods.

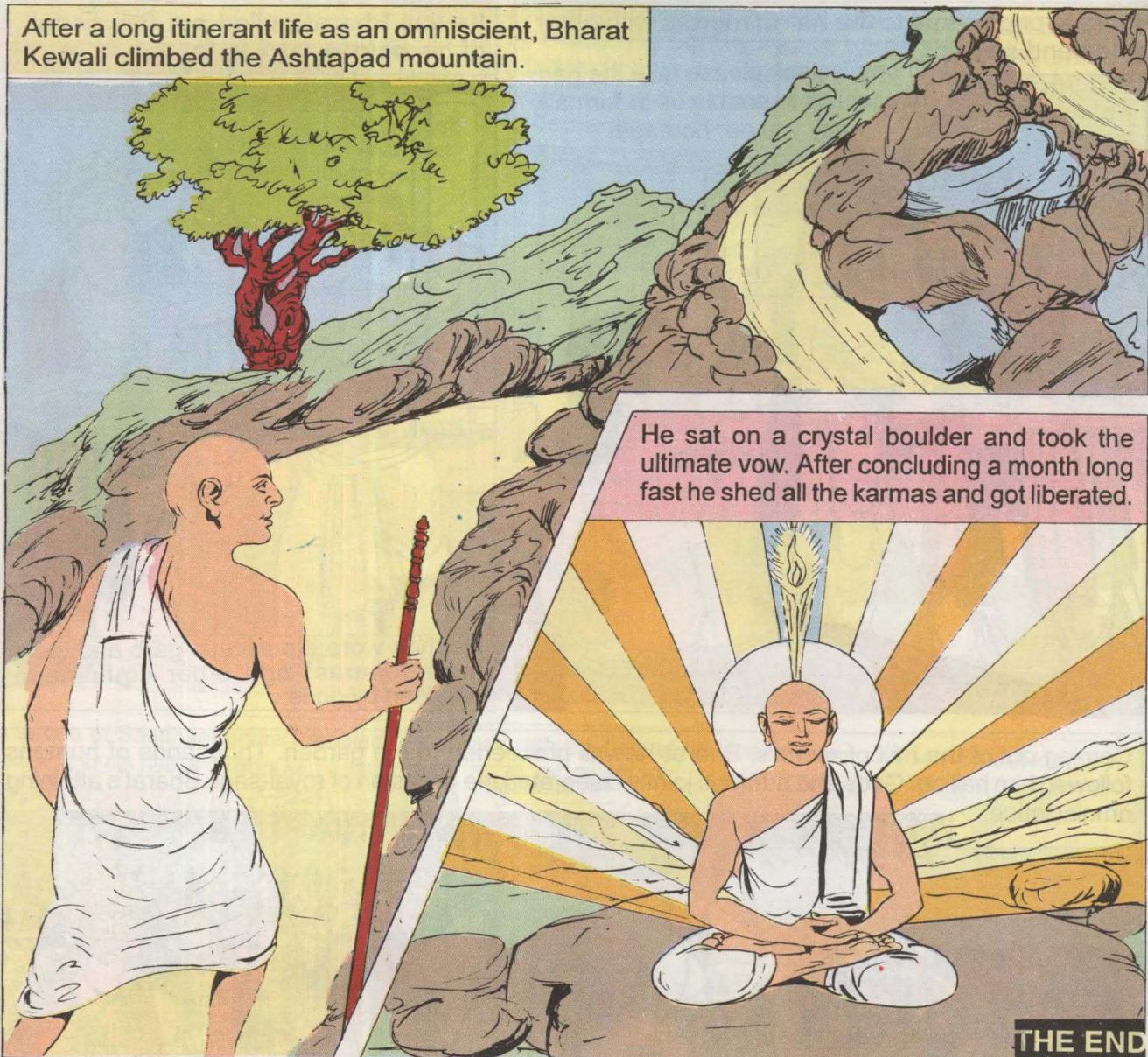
Coming out of the hall of mirrors, Bharat Kewali proceeded to the garden. Thousands of humans followed him hailing. Gods and humans jointly celebrated the occasion of royal-sage Bharat's attaining omniscience.



Many kings and other worthies got initiated.

Ascetic-broom.

After a long itinerant life as an omniscient, Bharat Kewali climbed the Ashtapad mountain.



Conclusion

The story of life of Bharat chakravarti gives us following inspirations—

As a part of his duty, one has to rule and indulge in politics as well. Even then one should lead a simple life filled with compassion and love and detached from mundane pleasures. Although he was forced to fight his brothers, Bharat genuinely hated war and always praised their sacrifice, altruism and discipline.

When the mind is detached from mundane pleasures the purity of soul can be attained anywhere.

Bharat chakravarti always worshiped sacrifice and detachment. He found the purpose of his life in the worship of Prabhu Adishvar.

Is Wine Vegetarian ?

Most probably, the answer is "no". Here is the result of a study by carolina pyevich, for the vrg.

Dear friends,

Although wine usually contains only grapes, yeast and a small amount of sulphites, which are added and created during fermentation, the processing of wine introduces small amounts of substances not acceptable to vegetarians and vegans.

Every wine is different and no uniform formula exists for producing them. A clarifying or fining agent makes wine clear by removing proteins from it. If left in the wine, these proteins would denature and form long molecular strands. That would result in wine that is either hazy or has loose sediment floating in it. The agents eventually settle out of the wine. Different proteins serve as clarifying agents depending upon both the type of wine and the desired flavor.

Some clarifiers are animal-based products, while others are earth-based. Common animal-based agents include egg whites, milk, casein, gelatin and isinglass. Gelatin is derived from the skin and connective tissue of pigs and cows. Icinglass is prepared from the bladder of the sturgeon fish. Bentonite,

a clay earth product, serves as another popular fining agent.

Organic protein agents are more likely to be used in the clarification of premium wines which cost more than \$7 a bottle.

Egg whites from chicken eggs are used for red wine clarification. Wine makers in France (Burgundy) commonly utilize egg whites in their production. Egg whites generally clarify more expensive wines (above \$15 a bottle) or French wines which are expected to age.

Large producers of wine in the United States usually implement potassium caseinate as a substitute for eggs. Whole milk and casein are two other possible fining agents in some red wines.

Gelatin can clarify either white or red wine or beer. Gelatin pulls suspended material out of wine and less expensive wines may use this method.

Icinglass is used to fine selected white wines. Germany is one of the main countries that uses this

technique. Some American wineries also use isinglass to clarify white wine or chardonnay.

The most popular substance used to remove the proteins of domestically produced white wines is bentonite, the silica clay. It is used to fine most inexpensive wines.

Another fining agent of concern to vegetarians is blood. Although blood of large mammals may serve as a clarifier in some Old Mediterranean countries, its use is forbidden in United States and France.

Both the clarifying agents and the removed proteins coagulate on the bottom of the wine tank or barrel, from where they are removed. The ingredient list will not state the clarifier because it is removed from the final product.

Kosher wine is a speciality item and it is produced directly for the Kosher market. Kosher wines may be more likely to avoid the use of the animal-based clarifying agents, but not all do so. The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations stated that a wine could theoretically be certified

as Kosher if it contained egg whites or if the gelatin were completely removed from the final product. Paper is another agent sometimes used to clarify Kosher wine, as the impurities adhere to paper.

Alcohol also causes diseases, it affects your brain and your behavior

Alcohol causes cirrhosis of the liver, oral and oesophageal cancers, hemorrhagic strokes, malnutrition, accidents and suicides. Alcohol injures every cell it touches.

With every drink, you lose 10,000 brain cells. Those cells may be most vital ones for you....

Hae you ever experienced, that a very few little glitches bring a whole computer operation to a screeching halt or 'crash' ?

Anger, hatred, lust, greed or any emotion reasonably controlled under normal circumstances may find free rein when one is 'under the influence'. How can you tell what a man will do when he's drunk ?

**Jai Jinendra
Pramoda Chitrabhanu**

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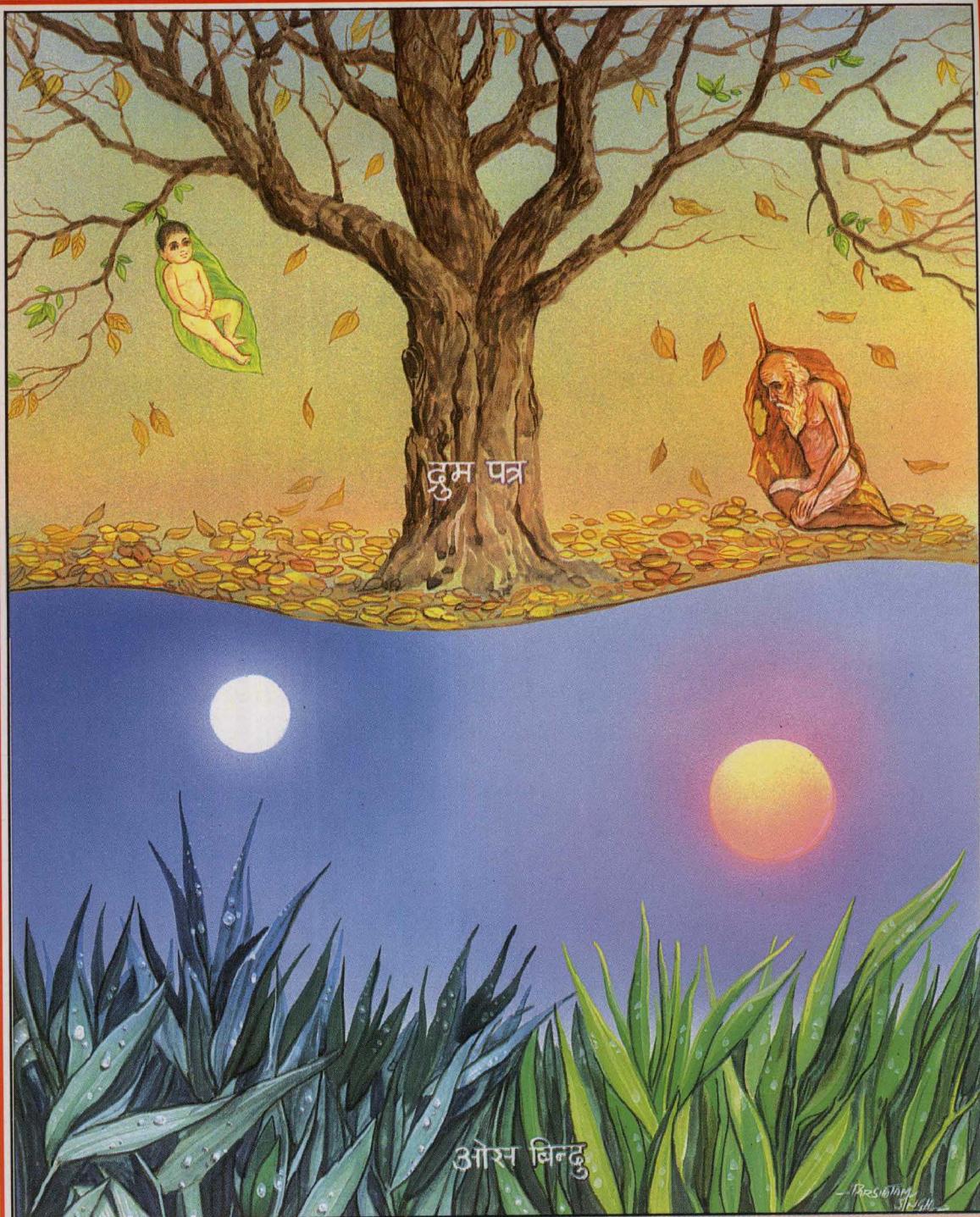
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(1) This life is transient like a yellow leaf of a tree. It falls down as green leaves—new sprouts (child) originate. (2) Dew-drops at the tip of grass shine like pearls for a few time but as the rays of sun-light touch them, they dried up. Such momentary is the human life. (*Uttaradhyayan Sutra Chapter 10 Couplets 1-2*)

—Picture taken from ILLUSTRATED UTTARADHYAYAN SUTRA, Editor : Shri Amar Muni